



***Day in the life: Architect***  
**Grade: 5-8**

**Description:**

Can you imagine being in charge of building the Ancient Egyptian pyramids, or designing the tallest building in the world? If you choose a career as an architect, you just may be responsible for building sky scrapers, museums, homes or stadiums! Architecture offers a world of possibilities for using the skills and concepts learned in school to create functional works of art. Architects draw upon many different skills and fields of knowledge such as math, engineering, history, social studies, geography, art, and even writing to design and build structures.

**Preparation for the Excursion**

To ensure the most meaningful learning experience for your students, it is recommended that students engage in activities prior to the excursion. The video resources provide students with a context for the virtual excursion. The additional resources and activities offer opportunities for curricular connections and integration within your larger unit of study. The excursion is intended to complement a comprehensive unit.

**Video Link:** (Use the following link to view the *Day in the life of an Architect* video)  
[http://easylink.playstream.com/21\\_CenturyLearning/occupations/architect\\_46.rm](http://easylink.playstream.com/21_CenturyLearning/occupations/architect_46.rm)

**Challenge Questions:**

To begin the Passports and assess students' prior knowledge ask students to respond to these questions:

- What does an architect do?
- What is the difference between the words 'architect' and 'architecture'?
- What kind of building would you like to build if you were an architect?
- What are the names of famous structures and buildings that are known for their architecture?
- What skills do you think would be important to succeed in this career?
- What do you think would be the some of the challenges that an architect would face?
- How would our communities be different if we didn't have architects?
- Why are architects important in our communities?

**Responses/Prompts:**

The questions are intended to spark thinking about a possible career as an architect and the importance of architecture in our culture.

**Lesson at a glance:**

Students will look at their own communities and identify different architectural designs. Students will discuss the knowledge base an architect must have to be successful in their

careers. Students will use their own architectural creativity and design their own buildings.

### **Lesson Outcomes:**

The students will:

- Learn about the importance of architecture in our communities.
- Explore different architectural designs and their significance.
- Reflect on what characteristics an architect must possess to succeed.

### **Activity:**

#### *Activity #1: Architectural Research in Your Community*

Students can research famous buildings or buildings in their neighborhoods. Once the research has been completed, students can share their buildings with the class and tell about their history and architecture.

#### *Activity #2: Your Dream Building*

If you were an architect for a day, what would you create? A new home? A tall building? Challenge students to think about what is needed in their own community and design based on needs and wants. Students can then create their dream architectural building. Have students draw or build using different materials a unique architectural structure. Students should have an opportunity to share their design, explaining the different features, as well as why they chose to build what they did.

#### *Activity #3: Is this career for you?*

Students can write about whether or not this career suits their own interests and strengths. Why or why not? What skills would they need to strengthen to pursue this career? What would be the best part of this career? What would be the biggest challenge? Students may choose to locate architects in their community and write or email them questions and thoughts about their career. Students can also compare and contrast this career to others they may have learned about, or wish to research.