



Day in the life: Architect
Grade: K-4

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

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: Paper Bag Architecture

Using paper bags, students can create puppets and masks that illustrate famous buildings or buildings in their neighborhoods. Wearing their paper bag creations, the children become talking buildings 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? Students can 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: The Pyramids of Ancient Egypt

Few architectural structures have stood the test of time as the Egyptian pyramids. Read to students or have students read about these historical landmarks. Older students can continue researching the materials that were needed, the workmanship that was involved, and steps it took to build the pyramids. Younger students can continue to look at pictures and listen to fiction and nonfiction stories involving the pyramids. Challenge students to relate present day architecture to Ancient times and other cultures.