

Identifying Historic Architectural Designs

Focus

This lesson is focused on providing students with a working knowledge of the various types of historic architectural designs that have been used for private residences throughout the United States and in Champaign, Illinois. Students will begin this lesson by drawing upon their background knowledge of architectural designs for homes such as the log cabin. They will then brainstorm ideas for why architectural designs change over time, and why people build different types of houses. Students will then break off into small groups and examine one of the six historic architectural designs using the provided PowerPoint presentation. Students will then report back to the whole class as experts on a specific style of architecture and share what they have learned. Upon completion of the group reports, students will reflect on what they have learned by completing a short writing assignment concerning a specific style of historical architecture.

Illinois State Learning Standards

16.A.3b Make inferences about historical events and eras using historical maps and other historical sources.

16.A.5a Analyze historical and contemporary developments using methods of historical inquiry (pose questions, collect and analyze data, make and support inferences with evidence, report findings).

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1.) Identify and describe six different styles of historical architecture.
- 2.) Compare and contrast various architectural design elements used in different styles of historical architecture.
- 3.) Develop a short essay that identifies a specific style of historical architecture that most appeals to them and explains why it appeals to them.

Procedures

- 1.) Show transparency #1 of a log cabin, and ask students to identify the style of architecture that was used to create this home.
- 2.) Pass out Handout #1 ([Historical Architectural Designs Pre-Assessment](#)) and have students complete it individually.

- 3.) Collect Handout #1 and begin a short discussion/lecture about historical architectural designs that have been used throughout history (Castles, Teepees, Sod Houses, etc.).
- 4.) Pass out Handout #2 ([Why Housing Styles Change?](#)) and have students brainstorm reasons for why housing styles have changed throughout history.
- 5.) Have students suggest their answers and make a list on the overhead or board. Explain that there are many reasons for why housing styles change, and that students will be examining six historical styles of architectural that have been used in both the United States and here in Champaign.
- 6.) Pass out Handout #3 ([Historical Architectural Designs Worksheets](#)), explain directions, have students form groups, and then begin using the [PowerPoint](#) presentations.
- 7.) Have students report back their findings to the class, and complete the rest of their Historical Architectural Designs Worksheets.
- 8.) Pass out Handout #4 ([Historical Architectural Designs Post-Assessment](#)), and have students complete individually. Upon completion, review the correct answers and have students compare their pre-assessment tests with their post-assessment tests.
- 9.) Pass out Handout #5 ([My Architectural Design Preference](#)), answer any questions, and allow students to begin their assignment.

Assessment

Students will complete the following short writing assignment:

My Architectural Design Preference

After having had a chance to about six different types of historic architectural designs, you are going to choose the one you like the best. Imagine that you have just won the lottery, and you can build a new home in your school's neighborhood. Because of the zoning laws, you can only build a home that follows one of the six types of architectural design we have discussed. Your task is to explain in a short letter to the local architect who is going to help design your house, what specific design elements and features you want you house to have. Remember what you have learned about each architectural style, and the design elements that were common to them. Be sure to use proper grammar and punctuation when writing this letter.

Materials

[Transparency #1 \(Log Cabin\)](#)

Handout #1 ([Historical Architectural Designs Pre-Assessment](#))

Handout #2 ([Why Housing Styles Change?](#))

Handout #3 ([Historical Architectural Designs Graphic Organizer](#))

Handout #4 ([Historical Architectural Designs Post-Assessment](#))

Handout #5 ([My Historical Architectural Design Preference](#))

[Historical Architectural Designs PowerPoint Presentation](#)

House Styles at a Glance: An Illustrated Guide by Maurie Van Buren. 1991.
p. 12, 28, 34, 92, 104, & 108.

Photos of the selected architectural designs:

[American Four Square #1](#)

[American Four Square #2](#)

[Colonial Revival #1](#)

[Colonial Revival #2](#)

[Bungalow #1](#)

[Bungalow #2](#)

[Gabled Ell #1](#)

[Gabled Ell #2](#)

[Queen Anne #1](#)

[Queen Anne #2](#)

[Italianate #1](#)

[Italianate #2](#)