



Title: Exploring Personal Connections through Iowa Architecture

Grade Level: 5th Grade

Subject: Visual Arts

Objective: Students will be able to identify, describe, and visually document places and/or objects of personal significance related to Iowa architecture through observation, reflection, and artistic expression.

Materials Needed:

- Pictures or slides of different architectural styles in Iowa
- Drawing paper or sketchbooks
- Pencils, erasers, rulers
- Colored pencils, markers, or crayons
- Cameras or tablets (optional, for documenting)

Duration: 1 hour

Procedure:

Introduction (10 minutes):

- Begin the lesson by showing students pictures or slides of different architectural styles found in Iowa.
- Engage the students in a discussion about their own personal connections to architecture. Prompt questions like:
 - Do you have a favorite building or place in Iowa?
 - What makes it special to you?
 - How does it make you feel when you visit or see it?
- Explain to the students that they will be exploring their personal connections to Iowa architecture and visually documenting them through drawing.

Personal Reflection (15 minutes):

- Have students take a few moments to reflect on their own experiences with architecture in Iowa.
- Encourage them to think about places or buildings that hold personal significance to them, such as their home, school, a park, or a landmark.
- Provide each student with a piece of paper or their sketchbook and ask them to write or draw about the place they have chosen, focusing on why it is important to them.

Observation and Documentation (20 minutes):

- Take the students outside for a short walk around the school or nearby area to observe the architecture.
- Encourage students to look for architectural features and details that resonate with them personally.
- Provide students with cameras or tablets to take pictures of the places or buildings they have chosen. Alternatively, they can sketch directly in their sketchbooks.
- Remind students to pay attention to the details that make their chosen place or building significant to them.

Drawing Activity (15 minutes):

- Back in the classroom, provide each student with drawing paper, pencils, rulers, and drawing materials.
- Instruct the students to use their observations and personal reflections to create a detailed drawing of the place or building they chose.
- Encourage students to include as much detail as possible, focusing on the elements that make the place special to them.

Sharing and Discussion (10 minutes):

- Invite students to share their drawings and personal reflections with the class.
- Encourage students to describe their chosen place or building and explain why it is significant to them.
- Facilitate a discussion about the different personal connections students have to Iowa architecture, emphasizing how architecture can evoke emotions and memories.

Reflection (5 minutes):

- Wrap up the lesson by asking students to reflect on what they learned about Iowa architecture and their own personal connections to it.
- Have students discuss how architecture can shape our experiences and memories, and how it contributes to the sense of place in Iowa.

Extensions:

- Have students research the history and significance of their chosen place or building and create presentations to share with the class.
- Organize a field trip to visit local architectural sites or invite a guest speaker, such as an architect or historian, to talk to the class about Iowa architecture (contact the Iowa Architectural Foundation at director@iowaarchfoundation.org).
- Explore different artistic techniques for representing architecture, such as collage or mixed media.

Assessment:

- Assess students based on their participation in discussions, the depth of their personal reflections, the accuracy and detail of their drawings, and their ability to articulate why their chosen place or building is significant to them.