



**Title: Exploring Iowa Architecture: Documenting and Representing Regional Environments**

**Grade Level: 4th Grade**

Subject: Visual Arts

Objective:

Students will be able to document, describe, and represent regional constructed environments in Iowa through observation, drawing, and discussion.

Materials Needed:

- Pictures or slides of different architectural styles in Iowa
- Drawing paper
- 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 what they see in the pictures. Prompt questions like:
  - What shapes, patterns, and colors do you notice?
  - How do these buildings fit into our environment?
  - What materials do you think were used to construct them?
- Explain to the students that they will be exploring Iowa architecture and documenting their observations through drawing.

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 different architectural styles and features, such as roof shapes, windows, doors, and materials.
- Provide students with cameras or tablets to take pictures of the architectural features they find interesting. Alternatively, they can sketch directly in their sketchbooks.
- Remind students to pay attention to details and take notes about what they observe.

Drawing Activity (20 minutes):

- Back in the classroom, provide each student with drawing paper, pencils, rulers, and drawing materials.
- Instruct the students to choose one architectural feature or building they observed outside and create a detailed drawing of it.
- Encourage students to include as much detail as possible, focusing on the shapes, textures, and patterns they observed.

Sharing and Discussion (10 minutes):

- Invite students to share their drawings with the class.
- Encourage students to describe the architectural feature they chose and explain why they found it interesting.
- Facilitate a discussion about the different architectural styles and features students observed, emphasizing how these contribute to the regional environment of Iowa.

Reflection (5 minutes):

- Wrap up the lesson by asking students to reflect on what they learned about architecture in Iowa.
- Have students discuss how the architectural features they observed contribute to the uniqueness of Iowa's constructed environment.
- Encourage students to think about how architecture reflects the culture, history, and values of a region.

Extensions:

- Have students research specific architectural landmarks in Iowa and create presentations about their history and significance.
- 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](mailto:director@iowaarchfoundation.org)).
- Explore different architectural drawing techniques, such as perspective drawing or architectural rendering.

Assessment:

- Assess students based on their participation in discussions, the accuracy and detail of their drawings, their ability to describe and explain architectural features, and their understanding of how architecture contributes to the regional environment of Iowa.