

LESSON PLAN

Understand the cultural and historical significance of built structures, and explore a career that increases sustainability and justice.

Architecture provides youth with knowledge and skills to equip them to explore a career in the architecture field. Youth consider careers in architecture through the lenses of belonging, accessibility, sustainability and justice. Youth learn the importance of universal design, as well as the role architecture plays in community and culture. Understanding the cultural and historical significance of built structures, youth will reimagine a world in which each new structure increases a sense of belonging, access and environmental responsibility. Via specific considerations of sustainable communities, youth will learn how to forge a path forward to greater sustainability and justice through this career.



About Global Nomads Group

For over 25 years, Global Nomads Group has leveraged technology to host digital safe spaces for young people around the world to share their stories, challenge assumptions, engage with and learn from each other, and, by doing so, foster a more just world.

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Objectives

By the end of this module, students will:

1. Students will understand what architecture is.
2. Students will learn about universal design.
3. Students will connect architecture to notions of belonging.

Introduction

Begin the lesson by asking students to think about their sleep space and how it reflects their personal identity and values.

Show images of the different sleep spaces described in the content and ask students to describe what they observe in each image. Encourage them to consider the decorations, personalizations, and overall appearance.

Facilitate a brief class discussion on the following questions:

1. What can the decorations and personalizations of a sleep space tell us about a person's life circumstances, values, and identities?
2. How does your sleep space contribute to your sense of belonging or lack thereof?
3. Do you think it's fair that everyone has different sleeping conditions? Why or why not?
4. What impact does your sleep space have on the environment?

Understanding Architecture

- Introduce the concept of architecture and its various functions. Explain that architecture goes beyond designing buildings and involves considering factors like justice, belonging, accessibility, and sustainability.
- Ask students to share examples of architectural structures they encounter in their daily lives, such as schools, malls, or hospitals.

Exploring Justice, Belonging, Accessibility, and Sustainability

- Define and explain the concepts of justice, belonging, accessibility, and sustainability in the context of architecture, using the descriptions provided in the content.
- Discuss each concept and its importance in creating inclusive and sustainable communities.
- Encourage students to share their thoughts and examples related to each concept.

Reflecting on Sleep Spaces

Have students reflect on their own sleep space and its architectural features. Provide a list of questions for them to answer individually or discuss in small groups:

1. How might an architect redesign the structural features of your sleep space to meet the criteria of justice, belonging, accessibility, and sustainability?
2. Are there any architectural obstacles in your sleep space that hinder accessibility?
3. How can the design of your sleep space promote a sense of belonging and reflect your identity?
4. What changes could be made to make your sleep space more environmentally friendly?

Video and Discussion

Show the video featuring youth discussing their sense of belonging in relation to architecture.

Engage students in a guided discussion based on the video:

1. How does architecture contribute to a sense of belonging or exclusion for the individuals in the video?
2. Can you relate to any of the experiences shared in the video?
3. How can architects create spaces that foster a sense of belonging for all individuals?
4. What role can architecture play in promoting social justice and sustainability?

Conclusion and Reflection

Summarize the main points discussed in the lesson and emphasize the importance of considering justice, belonging, accessibility, and sustainability in architectural design.

Ask students to individually write a short reflection on the following prompt:

1. “Based on what you've learned today, how do you think architecture can contribute to creating a more just and sustainable world?”

Explore

Show the students the map, and explore the stories, articles, and videos that have been provided by their global peers. Ask the youth to pick their top three stories, and share them with their peers.

Share

Students will answer the following prompts:

1. Describe a place where the architecture makes you feel like you belong and why.
2. Describe a place where the architecture makes you feel like you don't belong and why.
3. Share pictures, online images, similar/related images, and/or descriptions of the buildings and their architectural features.

At the end of their stories, students should mention 2-4 stories and resources they've explored and would recommend to their global peers.

Objectives

By the end of this module, students will:

1. Students will examine the effects of architecture on society and culture.
2. Students will understand the importance of accessibility and sustainability in architecture.
3. Students will share the story of a structure that represents the cultures of the people in their community.

Introduction

- Begin the lesson by asking students if they have ever thought about the cultural and environmental influence of the architectural structures in their community.
- Discuss the importance of architectural structures in reflecting the history, traditions, and values of a community.
- Introduce the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11, “Sustainable Cities and Communities,” and explain its targets related to cultural heritage and inclusive, accessible, and green spaces.

Image Analysis

- Show the images of the architectural structures mentioned in the content description (Burj Khalifa, Orquideorama, Lotus Temple, Grand Theatre of Rabat, YuCheung Courtyard Kindergarten).
- Divide the class into small groups or pairs.
- Distribute the images to each group and ask them to analyze the images, considering the physical details, purpose, cultural influence, and accessibility of each structure.

Group Discussion

- Bring the class back together and facilitate a group discussion based on the analysis of the images.
- Ask each group to share their observations and insights about the architectural structures they analyzed.
- Encourage students to discuss the cultural influences, environmental considerations, and accessibility features of each structure.
- Prompt students to reflect on the extent to which these structures align with the goals of sustainable cities and communities.
- Engage the students in a discussion about the importance of preserving cultural heritage while also addressing accessibility concerns. Ask them to consider potential modifications or design strategies that could make the structure more inclusive.

Personal Reflection

Ask each student to think about an architectural structure in their community.

In their notebooks or on a separate piece of paper, have them reflect on the following questions:

1. Does the architectural structure reflect the culture of your community?
2. Is it inclusive, accessible, and representative of the community? If not, who is excluded?
3. What architectural improvements are needed to make it more inclusive and accessible?

Sharing and Brainstorming

- Invite volunteers to share their reflections with the class.

- Facilitate a brainstorming session where students collectively suggest architectural improvements that would enhance inclusivity and accessibility in the identified structure.
- Encourage students to think creatively and consider various aspects such as ramps, wider doorways, signage, sensory elements, and other design considerations that cater to diverse needs.

Conclusion and Action Steps

- Summarize the key points discussed during the lesson, emphasizing the importance of accessibility and sustainability in architecture.
- Emphasize the importance of architectural structures in reflecting and preserving cultural heritage while promoting inclusivity and accessibility.
- Discuss the role of architects and designers in creating buildings that meet the needs of diverse communities.
- Encourage students to take action by raising awareness about the importance of inclusivity in architectural design and advocating for improvements in their community's structures.

Explore

Show the students the map, and explore the stories, articles, and videos that have been provided by their global peers. Ask the youth to pick their top three stories, and share them with their peers.

Share

Students will answer the following prompts:

1. Tell the story of an architectural structure in your community that represents the cultures of the people in your community.

2. Is the structure inclusive and accessible to everyone? If not, who is excluded and what architectural improvements are needed?

At the end of their stories, students should mention 2-4 stories and resources they've explored and would recommend to their global peers.

Objectives

By the end of this module, students will:

1. Students will reflect on the impact of architecture on the environment.
2. Students will take into account sustainable materials, energy efficiency, and inclusivity in design.
3. Students will share the story of their favorite structure, redesigning it to make it more sustainable.

Introduction

- Engage students by asking them to think about the general conditions of their community, such as access to housing, transportation, green spaces, air quality, and clean water.
- Discuss the impact of architectural structures on the environment and the need for sustainable practices in urban planning and construction.
- Introduce the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 11, "Sustainable Cities and Communities", and its objectives.

Urban and Regional Planning

- Explain the role of urban and regional planners in determining land use and creating communities.
- Discuss how urban and regional planners address issues like poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation.
- Use the example of air pollution to illustrate the importance of urban planning in addressing community health and well-being.

Video: "Superblocks in Barcelona"

- Show the video about the Superblocks concept in Barcelona.

- Discuss how placing people at the center of community design can lead to increased accessibility, reduced air pollution, and improved community interactions.
- Encourage students to think about how urban planning can prioritize sustainability and inclusivity.

Architectural Design for Energy Efficiency

- Explain the role of architectural designers in creating energy-efficient buildings.
- Define energy efficiency and its significance in reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Show the video “Net-Zero Energy Buildings” to explain the concept and showcase examples of architectural designs using renewable energy sources.

Sustainable Architectural Designs

- Present images and descriptions of sustainable architectural designs, including Bahrain's World Trade Center, Torre Reforma, Bullitt Center, Green Building in Chengdu, Eastgate Center, and the Green Roof Strategy in Hamburg.
- Discuss the features of each design that promote energy efficiency, renewable energy use, and environmental sustainability.
- Engage students in a discussion about which features they would want to include in their school design/community and why.

Construction and Deconstruction

- Introduce the role of civil engineers in supervising construction and promoting sustainability.
- Explain the difference between demolition and deconstruction and discuss the benefits of deconstruction in reducing waste and environmental impact.

- Emphasize the importance of collaboration between architects and civil engineers in designing buildings that are easily deconstructed in the future.

Rammed Earth Construction Technique

- Introduce the rammed earth construction technique and its historical significance.
- Show images of rammed earth structures and explain the materials and process involved.
- Discuss the advantages of rammed earth construction, including its cost-effectiveness and use of locally available materials.

Reflection and Discussion

Ask students to reflect on the lesson and discuss what they have learned about architectural sustainability and its role in creating sustainable cities and communities.

Explore

Show the students the map, and explore the stories, articles, and videos that have been provided by their global peers. Ask the youth to pick their top three stories, and share them with their peers.

Share

Students will answer the following prompts:

1. Think of your favorite architectural structure and its features.
2. Do any of its features reduce energy consumption or draw on renewable energy sources? Tell us about them.
3. Now consider how you would redesign this same structure to be even more sustainable.

At the end of their stories, students should mention 2-4 stories and resources they've explored and would recommend to their global peers.

Objectives

By the end of this module, students will:

1. Students will explore the skills and knowledge needed for a career in the architectural field.
2. Students will create a goal for pursuing a career in this field.

Introduction

- Welcome the students and recap the previous modules on accessibility, sustainability, justice, and belonging in architecture.
- Explain that in this lesson they will explore possible career pathways in architecture and discuss how they can take action to influence architectural developments.

Skills and Education for Architecture

- Discuss the skills required for a career in architecture, including design skills, math and engineering abilities, understanding of building codes and laws, business knowledge, and communication skills.
- Explain that higher education, such as a Bachelor's or Master's degree, is typically required to become an architect.
- Mention the importance of becoming licensed, especially if they plan to practice architecture in different countries.

Understanding Personality and Learning Styles

- Introduce the concept of personality assessments and their relevance in understanding oneself.
- Explain the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and its four-letter code.
- Provide an overview of the sixteen different personality types according to the MBTI and their respective traits.

- Highlight the ISTP and ISTJ types as being considered ideal for architects, but emphasize that other personality types can also pursue a career in architecture.

Individual Reflection

- Ask students to reflect on their own personality traits and learning styles based on the MBTI personalities, and consider which career paths in architecture align with their strengths and preferences.
- Have students write down/discuss their reflections and the career path they find most interesting.

Group Discussion

- Divide the class into small groups.
- Instruct each group to discuss their chosen career paths in architecture and share why they find them appealing.
- Encourage students to exchange ideas and perspectives within their groups.

Just and Sustainable Architecture

- Discuss the importance of just and sustainable architecture in addressing global issues like climate change, overpopulation, and pollution.
- Define just and sustainable architecture as creating environmentally friendly, inclusive, and socially conscious designs.
- Show the image of the blueprint with the quote by Anatole Kopp and ask students to reflect on what just and sustainable architecture means to them.

Action Plan

- Have students brainstorm actions they can take today to promote just and sustainable architecture in their communities or personal lives.

- Provide examples, such as advocating for green building projects, promoting inclusivity in design, or supporting historic preservation.
- Instruct students to write down/discuss their action plans individually.

Conclusion

- Summarize the main points discussed in the lesson, emphasizing the importance of skills, career exploration, and taking action in architecture.
- Encourage students to pursue their interests and consider how they can contribute to a more just and sustainable world through architecture.

Explore

Show the students the map, and explore the stories, articles, and videos that have been provided by their global peers. Ask the youth to pick their top three stories, and share them with their peers.

Share

Students will answer the following prompt:

1. Create your own SMARTIE Goal related to or in preparation for a career in the architecture industry. Remember to connect your goal to the concepts of justice and sustainability within this field.

A Smartie Goal should be:

S - Specific: Reflects a concrete, definable goal that you seek to accomplish, connected to a broader values-based purpose. Guiding Questions: What specifically do you want to do? Is the purpose of your goal clear? What is your desired result?

M - Measurable: Includes clear measures that show whether the goal has been reached (in numbers or a measurable change). Guiding Questions: How will you measure your progress? How will you know when you have achieved your goal?

A - Ambitious: Challenging enough that reaching the goal will make a difference in people's lives. Guiding Questions: Is your goal aligned with the issue? Is your goal challenging enough? Is your goal meaningful and relevant? Why does your goal matter? What makes attaining this goal important?

R - Realistic: Something you can actually accomplish. Guiding Questions: Is this goal within your power to accomplish? Do you have the resources you need to accomplish your goal? Do you have access to the contacts, support, training, facilities, education, skills that your goal requires?

T - Time-bound: Includes clear deadlines. Guiding Questions: When exactly do you want to accomplish this goal? What time frame do you need to reach your goal? When will your goal be achieved and at what pace?

I - Inclusive: The goal brings people who are directly affected, particularly those most impacted, into reaching the goal. Guiding Questions: Are all the people affected accounted for in your goal? Does it bring in traditionally marginalized people? How can you make your goal be inclusive towards/positively impact people from marginalized groups? Is your goal taking a diverse universe into consideration?

E - Equitable: Seeks to address injustice, inequity, and oppression. Guiding Questions: Does it seek to address systemic injustice, inequity, or oppression? How can you adapt your goal so that it actively and intentionally seeks to promote equity and limit the disparity of access to resources? How can you make your goal purposefully seek to share power amongst groups?

At the end of their stories, students should mention 2-4 stories and resources they've explored and would recommend to their global peers.