



FRANK  
LLOYD  
WRIGHT  
TRUST

# FROEBEL BLOCKS & FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

**GRADE:** K-12

**TIME:** 45 minutes

Participants will explore Frank Lloyd Wright's design legacy by working with Froebel Gifts 3 and 4 through a series of guided activities. These activities will provide an introduction to design concepts used by Frank Lloyd Wright and help participants identify key connections between the Forms of Life, Forms of Beauty, and Wright's designs. Participants will also be encouraged to question the relationship between aesthetics and utility to determine if something can be both useful and beautiful.

**INTEGRATED SUBJECTS:** Visual Art & Math

## OBJECTIVES

### MATERIALS | RESOURCES

Forms of Life Figures (included below)

Forms of Beauty Figures (included below)

Grids (included below)

Inventing Kindergarten

by Norman Brosterman (optional)

Examples of Wright's designs

Frederick C. Robie House

Unity Temple

Art Glass

**Froebel Blocks (Gifts 3-6)** (To rent a FLWT Education learning kit, which includes blocks, figures, and grids, visit: <http://flwright.org/education/learningkits>.)

1. Explore and make connections between Frank Lloyd Wright's design legacy and Froebel's Forms of Life and Forms of Beauty.
2. Engage in the design process by creating and building a unique Form with 3D geometric shapes.
3. Communicate ideas and design concepts visually and verbally.
4. Examine the relationship between beauty and utility.

## ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What similarities can you find between Froebel's Forms of Life and Beauty and Frank Lloyd Wright's work?
2. What steps do you take when you design and create? Is this different for a 2D or 3D design?
3. Can something be both beautiful and useful?

# LESSON PROCEDURE

## EXPLORE

5 minutes

- Distribute blocks. Allow participants to explore and play without specific instructions.
- After a few minutes, begin asking questions about the blocks to guide exploration.
- How do the blocks feel? How do they smell? What do you want to do with them? What do you want to know about them?

## ENGAGE

25 minutes

- Ask participants to return the blocks to their original state inside their box container.
- Distribute grids and figure sheets with the Forms of Life and Forms of Beauty.
- Introduce Froebel's system of building Forms by transforming figures.  
To remove the blocks from their box:
  1. Tip the entire box upside down on the grid with the lid closed.
  2. Gently slide the lid out and set aside.
  3. Pull the box up to reveal the stacked blocks inside. Note that this will be the first Form of Life (Figure 10 for Gift 3 & Figure 74 for Gift 4).
  4. Continue to work through each figure in chronological order by altering the block configuration without knocking them down. Blocks should be moved as little as possible to change form figure to figure.
- Allow participants to build the Forms of Life and Forms of Beauty.
- Share designs created by Frank Lloyd Wright and guide participants to make observations about what they see. Images available at: <https://www.teachingbydesign.org/multimedia/>
- Are any of Froebel's Forms recognizable in Wright's work? How do Forms impact the architecture, space, window, room? How does the design function? Is it a light, window, chair, or the shape of the building?

## DESIGN

7 minutes

- Taking inspiration from Wright's designs, encourage participants to build their own unique Form of Life or Beauty.
- Ask participants to consider whether their Form is one of Life or Beauty and why.

## CRITIQUE & INTERPRET

8 minutes

- Have participants share their designs.
- Ask: What do you see? Did you encounter any challenges when designing? What were they? How did you address them? How could the Forms be included in the design of the classroom? How would they change the space?
- Finally, ask participants if a Form can be both one of Life and Beauty? Why or why not?

# FORMS OF LIFE

# Gift 3

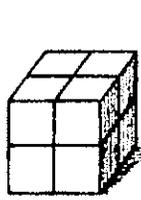


Figure 1

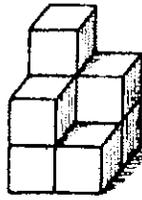


Figure 2

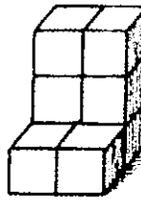


Figure 3

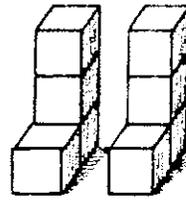


Figure 4

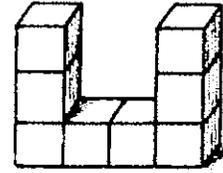


Figure 5



Figure 6

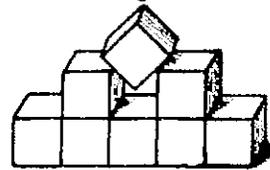
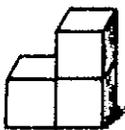


Figure 7

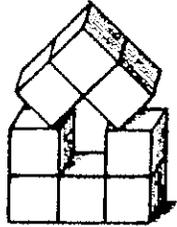


Figure 8

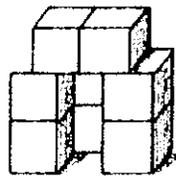


Figure 9

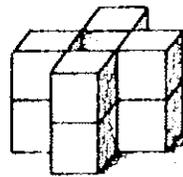


Figure 10

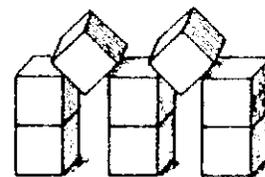


Figure 11

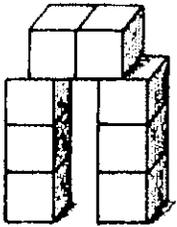


Figure 12

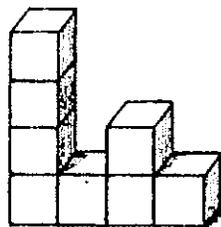


Figure 13

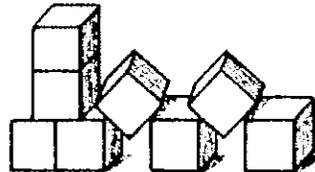


Figure 14

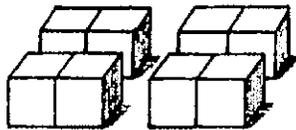


Figure 15



Figure 16

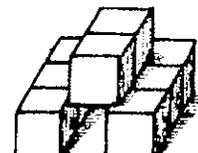


Figure 17

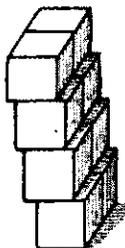


Figure 18

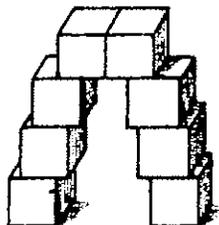


Figure 19

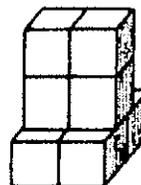


Figure 20

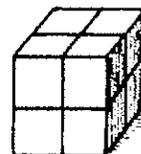


Figure 21

# FORMS OF BEAUTY

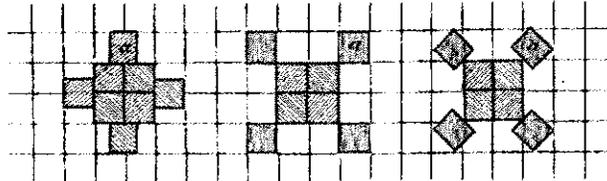


Figure 22

Figure 23

Figure 24

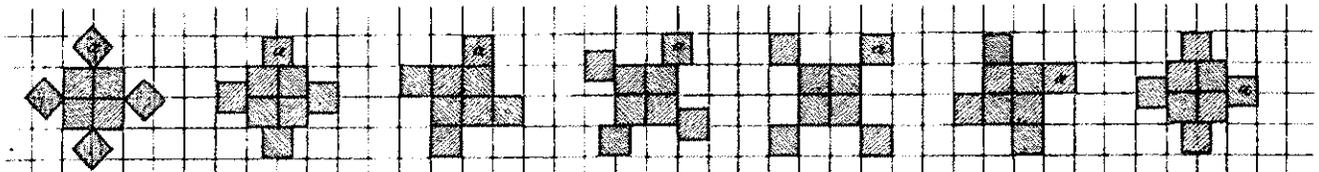


Figure 25

Figure 26

Figure 27

Figure 28

Figure 29

Figure 30

Figure 31

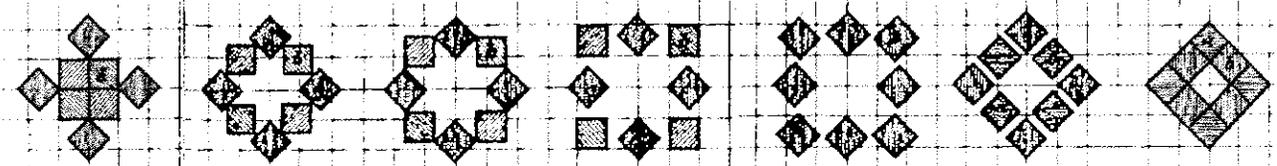


Figure 32

Figure 33

Figure 34

Figure 35

Figure 36

Figure 37

Figure 38

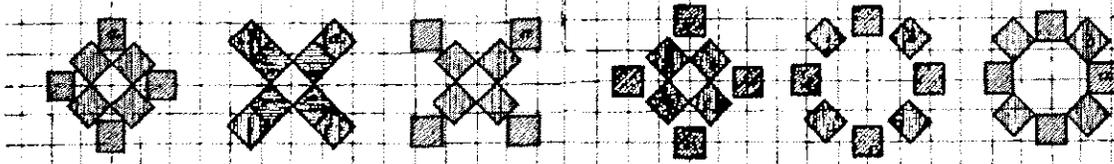


Figure 39

Figure 40

Figure 41

Figure 42

Figure 43

Figure 44

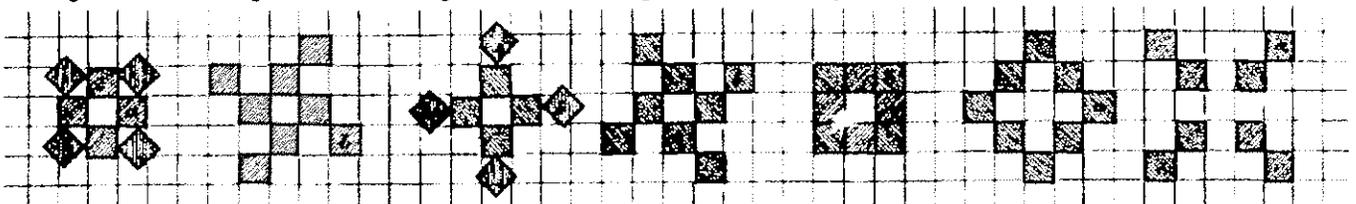


Figure 45

Figure 46

Figure 47

Figure 48

Figure 49

Figure 50

Figure 51

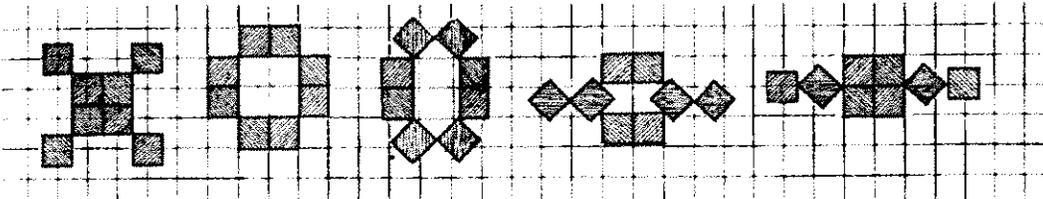


Figure 52

Figure 53

Figure 54

Figure 55

Figure 56

## FORMS OF LIFE

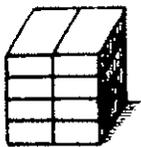


Figure 57

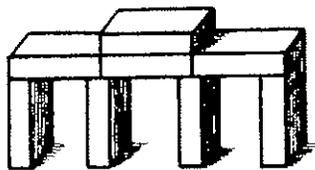


Figure 58

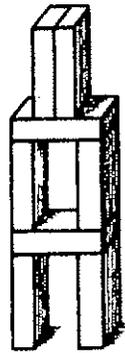


Figure 59

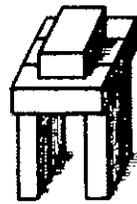


Figure 60

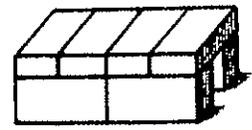


Figure 61

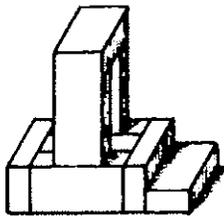


Figure 62

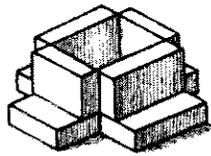


Figure 63

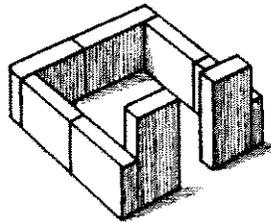


Figure 64

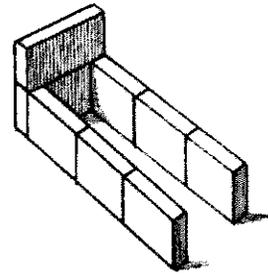


Figure 65

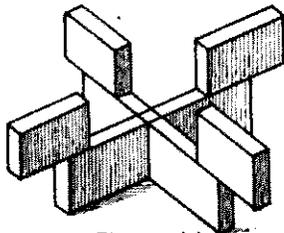


Figure 66



Figure 67

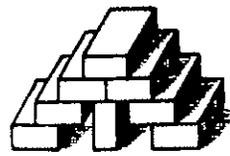


Figure 68

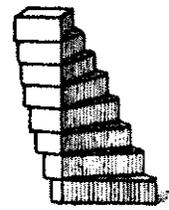


Figure 69



Figure 70



Figure 71

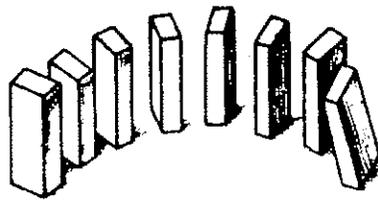


Figure 72

# 4 Gift

## FORMS OF BEAUTY

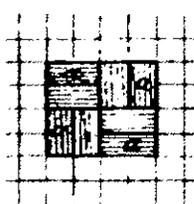


Figure 73

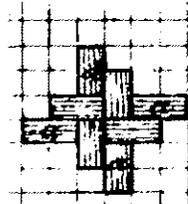


Figure 74

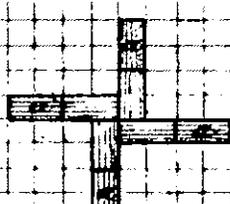


Figure 75

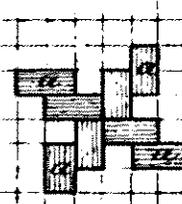


Figure 76

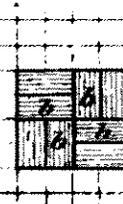


Figure 77

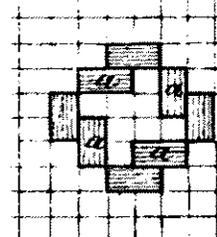


Figure 78

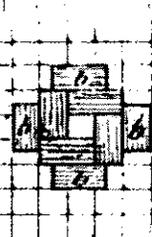


Figure 79

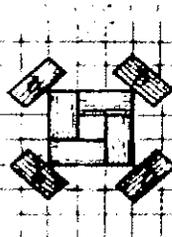


Figure 80

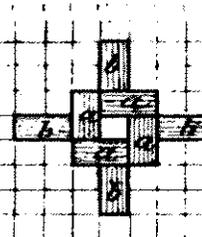


Figure 81

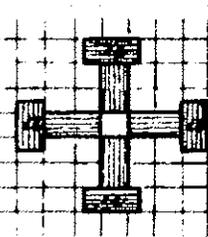


Figure 82

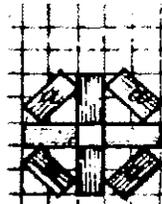


Figure 83

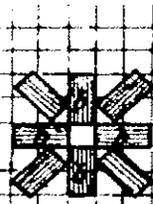


Figure 84

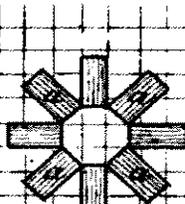


Figure 85

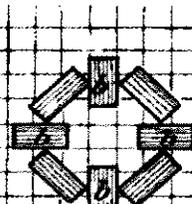


Figure 86

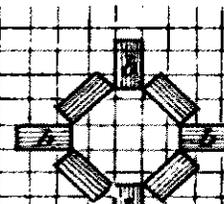


Figure 87

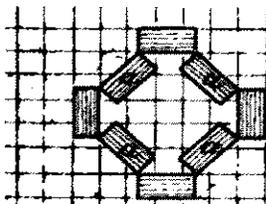


Figure 88

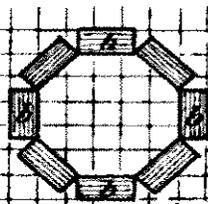


Figure 89

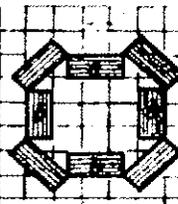


Figure 90

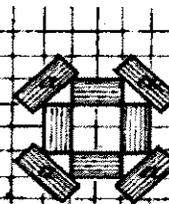


Figure 91

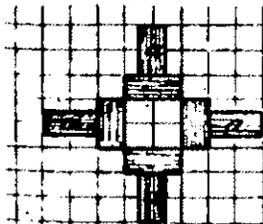


Figure 92



Figure 93



Figure 94

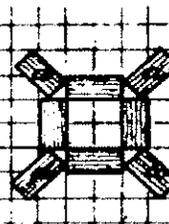


Figure 95

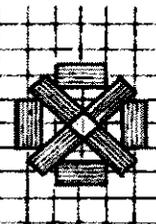


Figure 96

