

# GEOMETRIC FORMS OF BEAUTY

**GRADE:** K-2

**TIME:** 60 minutes

This lesson introduces participants to the geometric shapes and patterns that can be found in Frank Lloyd Wright's designs by building Forms of Beauty with Froebel Blocks. Participants will examine the shapes used to create the Forms and compare them to Wright's art glass designs. Using the Froebel blocks, they will then create their own unique Form that will be used as the foundation for a larger geometric composition.

**INTEGRATED SUBJECTS:** Visual Art & Math

## OBJECTIVES

### MATERIALS | RESOURCES

Froebel Blocks (Gifts 3-4)

Forms of Life Figures

Forms of Beauty Figures

Grids

Inventing Kindergarten

by Norman Brosterman

Art glass examples from:

Frederick C. Robie House

Home & Studio

Drawing Paper and Materials

1. Explore and make connections between Frank Lloyd Wright's design legacy and Froebel's Forms of Beauty.
2. Challenge students to identify, analyze, combine, reproduce and create with geometric shapes.
3. Foster spatial awareness and thinking processes.
4. Introduce design concepts and elements including abstraction, line, shape, and pattern.

## ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What are Froebel's Forms of Beauty? What do they resemble?
2. How do the Forms of Beauty relate to Frank Lloyd Wright's Art Glass Designs?
3. What design elements (shapes/patterns/lines/etc.) can be identified in Forms of Beauty?
4. How can geometric shapes be combined to create a Form of Beauty?

# LESSON PROCEDURE

## EXPLORE

15 minutes

- **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.
- **Distribute grids and figure sheets with the Forms of Beauty available at:** <https://www.teachingbydesign.org/multimedia/>.
- **Allow participants to build and work through the Forms.**
- **Briefly discuss the Forms of Beauty and ask:**  
What do the Forms of Beauty resemble? What shapes, lines, patterns do you see? Are the designs 2-D or 3-D? Do the Forms transform by moving up and down or in and out?

## ENGAGE

10 minutes

- **Introduce Frank Lloyd Wright as an architect and designer by sharing examples of his art glass designs from the Home & Studio and Frederick C. Robie House. You can also share that Frank Lloyd Wright played with Froebel blocks as a child and said that they inspired him. Images are available at:** <https://www.teachingbydesign.org/multimedia/>
- **As participants examine Wright's work, begin a discussion about their observations. Ask:**  
What shapes do you see in Frank Lloyd Wright's art glass designs? Do you notice any patterns or combination of shapes? Are any new shapes created? What do these designs remind you of? What do they look like? Are any of Froebel's Forms recognizable in Wright's work?

## DESIGN

20 minutes

- **Taking inspiration from Wright's designs, encourage participants to build their own unique Form of Beauty using either Gift 3 or Gift 4 on top of a white sheet of paper.**
- **Once their Form is built, have participants carefully trace their design onto the paper.**
- **Have participants complete their designs with crayon, colored pencil, and/or marker by transforming their geometric Form into a representational image.**

## CRITIQUE & INTERPRET

15 minutes

- **Provide time for participants to share and discuss their designs**
- **Have participants consider:**  
What shapes did you use to create your design? Did you combine or repeat shapes? Did you make any new shapes? How did you decide what your Form of Beauty looked like? Describe your process.