

LANDMARK DESIGN

GRADE: K-12

TIME: 45 minutes

Participants will manipulate and build with Froebel blocks as they examine the Forms of Life and Forms of Beauty. Afterward, they will compare the Forms with man-made and natural landmarks and discuss the design of each. Taking inspiration from these, participants will then design their own unique landmark for their school or community with the Froebel blocks.

INTEGRATED SUBJECTS: Visual Art & Social Studies

OBJECTIVES

MATERIALS | RESOURCES

Froebel Blocks (Gifts 3-6)

Forms of Life Figures

Forms of Beauty Figures

Grids

Inventing Kindergarten

by Norman Brosterman

Images of recognizable landmarks,
buildings and natural structures.

To rent a FLVWT Education learning kit, which includes
blocks, figures, and grids, visit:
<http://flwright.org/education/learningkits>.

1. Explore Froebel's Forms of Life and Forms of Beauty.
2. Experiment with building and designing with 3D geometric shapes.
3. Examine and compare man-made and natural designs.
4. Develop visual literacy as students examine and learn to recognize national landmarks and notable structures.
5. Understand the importance of landmarks.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What steps do you take when you design and create? Is this different for a 2D or 3D design?
2. What landmarks are important to us? Why?
3. Can objects in nature be Forms of Life? Can humans design Forms of Beauty?
4. Can built structures mimic natural objects? Is this intentional?

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? What do you want to do with them? What do you want to know about them?**

ENGAGE

15 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 available at: <https://www.teachingbydesign.org/multimedia/>**
- **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.**

DESIGN

20 minutes

- **To prepare, select images of natural and man made landmarks that look alike. Example: Gateway Arch in St. Louis and Rainbow Bridge**
- **Present the images for participants to examine and have them consider:**
Do these objects look like any specific Forms you just created with Froebel blocks? Are designs like the Gateway Arch inspired by natural landscapes? Can something in nature be a Form of Life, or are they only things that are man-made? What questions do you have when you see things that look similar even though one is natural and the other was built?
- **Have participants design their own landmark for the school or community with Froebel blocks.**

CRITIQUE & INTERPRET

5 minutes

- **Have participants share their designs.**
- **Ask participants to share their thoughts and observations. Ask:**
What do you see? What did you build? Is your landmark man-made or natural? Is it a Form of Life or Form of Beauty? Where in the school or community would it be located? Why?
- **Finally, ask participants if a Form can be both one of Life and Beauty? Why or why not?**