

# SEE, SKETCH, CREATE

**GRADE:** 3-5

**TIME:** One 45-minute session

Frank Lloyd Wright used his observations of the natural world to design innovative buildings that featured creative use of line, shape, and pattern. In this lesson, students will look out their classroom window to directly observe the world surrounding them. Then, they will identify and sketch any lines, shapes, and patterns that they see and apply those observations to the design of a new building.

**INTEGRATED SUBJECTS:** Visual Arts, Math

## OBJECTIVES

### MATERIALS | RESOURCES

Images of Frank Lloyd Wright buildings  
Paper  
Pencil  
Colored pencils (optional)  
Classical music/nature sounds (optional)

1. Observe and sketch lines, shapes, and patterns in the natural world and built environment.
2. Understand how a design or work of art is composed from many parts.
3. Create an original work of art that utilizes lines, shapes, and patterns directly observed by the student.

## ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What role does general observation, as well as the observation of natural settings, play in design?
2. What strategies aid in observation?

# LESSON PROCEDURE

## EXPLORE

- Introduce Frank Lloyd Wright and the job of an architect. Share how Wright used his observations of the natural world to design buildings with many interesting lines, shapes, and patterns.

## ENGAGE

- **Ask students to look out a classroom or home window and note what they see. Have students consider:** What do I see that is natural? What do I see that was built by humans? How does the frame of the window impact what I see? **Instruct students to sketch what they see. Allow at least 10 minutes for this exercise.**
- **Then, ask students to focus on and sketch lines, shapes, and patterns they see through the window. Allow at least 10 minutes for this exercise. Have students consider:** What kinds of lines, shapes, and patterns do I see in nature? What kinds of lines, shapes, and patterns do I see in the built environment? Are there similar lines, shapes, and patterns in the natural world and built environment?
- **Discuss observations with students. Ask:** What did you notice right away? What took time to see?
- **With students, explore designs by Frank Lloyd Wright. Ask students to identify any lines, shapes and patterns that they see in the design. Have students consider:** How and why do you think these elements were used by Wright? What impact do they have on the design?
- **Compare and contrast lines, shapes, and patterns found in Wright's buildings with lines, shapes, and patterns observed by students while sketching. Emphasize Wright's use of geometry. Have students consider:** How might these lines, shapes, and patterns be found in nature?

## DESIGN

- Challenge students to use any lines, shapes, and patterns they observed through the window to design and draw a new building. Encourage students to test out a few ideas. Music can be played while students draw.

## CRITIQUE & INTERPRET

- Have students share their designs with the classroom. Challenge students to note how they used lines, shapes, and patterns that they directly observed.