

SIMPLIFYING DESIGN

GRADE: 1-5, Middle School, High School

TIME: 30 minutes

Frank Lloyd Wright's designs often highlighted simple geometric shapes used in unpredictable and surprising ways. In this activity, participants examine some of Wright's most complex designs to discover the simple shapes they are made from. They then use geometric shapes, color, and size to create complex patterns and designs.

INTEGRATED SUBJECTS: Visual Art & Math

MATERIALS & RESOURCES

Images of Frank Lloyd Wright designs
Construction Paper
Drawing Paper
Color Pencils
Markers

OBJECTIVES

1. Use simple shapes to construct a complex pattern.
2. Explore the use of geometric shapes in Frank Lloyd Wright's design.
3. Make purposeful choices regarding color, size, and shape to create a two-dimensional artwork.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What makes a pattern complex?
2. How can simple shapes be changed or altered to create a design?

LESSON PROCEDURE

- Introduce Frank Lloyd Wright as an American architect and designer by showing examples of his work that highlight his use of geometric shape and pattern. Images available at: <https://www.teachingbydesign.org/multimedia/>
- **While looking at the designs have participants consider:** What do you see? What shapes did Wright use? How does color choice impact the design? How did Wright use size in his designs? How does this pattern (design) impact the space it is in? Would it be as successful if Wright used a different shape?
- **Have participants create their own design using simple geometric shapes. Designs should include only a couple of different shapes and colors, and create a repeating pattern.**
- **Display the designs and discuss participants' work. Ask:** What similarities/differences do you see? What strategies did you use? What strategies do you notice that others used? How does our work compare with Wright's? Do any of the designs look like they are from a Wright space? How could our built environment be changed through shape and pattern?