

Green and Local Architecture

Lesson Overview: Class will explore the differences in housing structures around the world. We will focus on the match between climate and architecture.

Written By: Margy LaFreniere, 6th grade Humanities, Erie Elementary Charter School

Subject(s): Social Studies

Suggested Grade Level(s): 2th – 5th

Time Duration: 1 40-45 minute class period

Common Core State Standards Addressed:

- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI Standard 3](#) Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

Objectives:

- Students will read a book of their choosing on houses and climate regions around the world
- Students will explain how climate and housing structures match.

Materials:

- Printed pictures from the “gallery” section of the “Vernacular Architecture” Wikipedia page.
- 10-15 books from Chicago Public Library on climate and houses, like:
 - *Merriam Webster Student Atlas*
 - *Shelters; From Tepee to Igloo*
 - *Weather and Climate*
 - *Homes in Hot Places, Homes in Cold Places*

Activities and Procedures:

1. Ask students, "What are some kinds of weather we get in Chicago?"
2. Record responses on chart paper.
3. Ask, "What are some ways our houses and schools keep us comfortable?"
4. Record responses next to the corresponding weather event.
5. Tell students that houses can be made in lots of different ways to help people live in different climates (areas of the world with similar weather).
6. Tell students you have collected a bunch of books and pictures about climate and homes around the world.
7. Give students 15 minutes to find as many ways as they can that buildings keep people comfortable.
8. Reconvene whole-group.
9. Ask students, "What different kinds of weather did you find around the world?"
10. "Did all houses look the same?" "Why do you think they looked different?"
11. Have students complete the Exit Slip.

Assessments: (Use bullet points) *Examples:*

- Exit Slip: see attached

Adaptations:

All assessment measures can be adapted to fit your population. Some students may be graded simply on how much their thinking grew, their willingness to participate, and helpfulness to others. Additionally, teachers are encouraged to adapt the readings to student ability levels prior to assigning them for homework or using them in class. All materials can be shortened or adapted for language.

EXIT SLIP

Name:

Date:

This picture shows a Batak house in Indonesia. Indonesia's climate has a lot of flooding. How does this house help people in a flood?

