

Year 1 Architecture

This unit introduces children to the art of designing buildings. It uses famous London landmarks (St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and The Houses of Parliament) to explore definitions for architecture and architects. Children become visually familiar with these buildings by producing line drawings of them. This draws on the children's knowledge of line from the previous unit, emphasising the importance of observation and recreating detail. The purpose and features of these different buildings are then considered, providing the children with an opportunity to explore working with different materials: collage to recreate a rose window and modelling clay to make a gargoyle. The children conclude the unit by starting to think about the process of design by investigating the connection between the purpose and consequent features of different buildings. They design their own penguin house, inspired by the deficient, but architecturally revered modernist penguin house at London Zoo.

Architecture is considered in more depth in two units at the end of year 3, in Roman and Byzantine monuments in year 4, in the Islamic unit in year 5 and in relation to the renaissance and Victorian periods studied in year 6.