
THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

ART:
GRADES 3-5



THE BEAUTY AND POWER OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

Exhibit Connections: Wonder of the Modern World, Artistry in Light, Windows opposite the exhibits provide a view of the external details of the Empire State Building, Stephen Wiltshire and Observation Deck

OVERVIEW OF LESSON PLAN

Explore the beauty and power of the iconic Empire State Building in this art-focused field trip and corresponding lesson plans. Utilizing the Visual Thinking Strategies, students will examine and interpret the iconic photographs of the construction workers perched atop the beams; investigate the Art Deco design of the architecture, interior fixtures, and murals; consider how the building celebrates holidays with its light show; and experience the magic of the dozens of films that feature the building's towering spire and Observation Deck.

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Explore the Art Deco style in a variety of media
- Recognize and label the standard geometric shapes of the style
- Utilize the provided prompts to recreate familiar objects using only geometric shapes
- Explore the Art Deco style by creating works using geometric shapes
- Utilize the Empire State Building's exhibits to answer questions during their trip
- Create their own Art Deco tessellations

SUGGESTED TIME ALLOWANCE:

One hour



RESOURCES/ MATERIALS:

- Black paper
- Scratch paper for practice
- Silver or gold Sharpies
- Ruler with metric
- Pencil
- White paper
- Handouts and tripsheet

ACTIVITIES/ PROCEDURES:

PRE-TRIP ACTIVITY

In this pre-trip lesson, students investigate the Art Deco/Modern style and apply it to recreate familiar pictures using only geometric shapes. Show students pictures of buildings made in the Art Deco/Modern style. Ask them what colors, shapes, and patterns they see, how the windows are shaped, what do the entrances look like, what materials do you notice (glass, steel, stone, etc.). Discuss with students how these design elements make up the Art Deco style and how the Empire State Building is designed in this architectural style.

Utilizing plain sketching paper, pencils, markers, and the shape guide, students will use the remaining time to create their own Art Deco versions of the objects in their chosen prompts. Allow time for students to share their work.

ON-SITE ACTIVITIES One hour

EXHIBIT: WONDER OF THE MODERN WORLD (10 minutes)

Take a few moments to observe the sketches and blueprints of the Empire State Building. Compare and contrast the concept drawings to the finished building. Do you notice anything missing? Next, use the space below to sketch both the aerial and frontal views of the building. What Art Deco design features do you notice? Label them on your sketch.

EXHIBIT: ARTISTRY IN LIGHT (5 minutes)

The newly reimaged and re-engineered lighting display of the Empire State Building's spire has quickly become a staple of the way New York City celebrates its holidays. Record three color combinations and their corresponding holidays. Use the exhibit signage to answer the questions on the trip sheet.

EXHIBIT: WINDOWS WITH A VIEW OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING (15 minutes)

Look out the windows opposite the Artistry in Light and Stephen Wiltshire exhibit. Here you can see the Art Deco details of the Empire State Building up close. Sketch one view and clearly identify the shapes associated with Art Deco.

EXHIBIT: STEPHEN WILTSHIRE (15 minutes)

The incredibly talented artist Stephen Wiltshire created a complete picture of the New York City skyline using only his memory. Take a deep look at his work and find a few buildings or landmarks that you recognize. Use the space on the trip sheet to answer questions about Wiltshire's work.

EXHIBIT: OBSERVATION DECK (15 minutes)

During your time on the Observation Deck, choose one section of the fencing surrounding and study the portion of the city you can see. Close your eyes and picture that scene. Turning away from the view, use the space provided below to sketch the cityscape from memory.

HOMEWORK/FURTHER DISCUSSION:

To extend the activity, ask the students to choose an object from the trip to redesign in Art Deco form. It could be anything with the school bus, a pigeon, a hotdog vendor cart!

POST-TRIP ACTIVITY/FURTHER DISCUSSION

In this post-trip lesson, students will explore tessellations and create their own Art Deco pattern using silver and gold Sharpies on black paper.

- Lead a facilitated class discussion about the Empire State Building trip and the Art Deco patterns located throughout the building.
- Suggest the students to Turn and Talk to their neighbors, asking them, “What do you remember about the patterns?”
- Allow time for the students to share out what they discussed; record the students’ ideas on the board or chart paper.
- Next, introduce tessellations. Ask the students to help define what they are by looking at a few examples.
- After the class has created their own definition, display examples of Art Deco-specific tessellations.
- Allow students time to create their grid on the black paper and design their Art Deco tessellations.

Utilizing the ruler to create a grid with 5cm squares on the black paper, the students will then use their Sharpies to create a repeating tessellation pattern on the grid.

Students can be evaluated based on their measurement accuracy of the grid, as well as on the creativity of their tessellation design.



CONNECTIONS TO THE STANDARDS

New York State Learning Standards for the Arts - Visual Arts

ANCHOR STANDARD 1 GENERATE AND CONCEPTUALIZE ARTISTIC IDEAS AND WORK.

VA:CR1.1.3 - Elaborate on a selected imaginative idea.

VA:CR1.1.5 - Combine ideas to generate an innovative idea for artmaking.

ANCHOR STANDARD 2 - ORGANIZE AND DEVELOP ARTISTIC IDEAS AND WORK.

VA:CR2.3.3 - Individually or collaboratively construct representations, diagrams, or maps of places that are part of everyday life.

ANCHOR STANDARD 10 - RELATE AND SYNTHESIZE KNOWLEDGE AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCES TO INSPIRE AND INFORM ARTISTIC WORK.

VA:CN10.1.4 - Develop a work of art, based on observations of surroundings.

PRE-TRIP WORKSHEET

NAME _____

DATE _____

The Empire State Building was built at the end of the Art Deco era of design. Its striking geometric shapes give it a clean, efficient, and streamlined look. Utilizing the simple geometric shapes on the chart, choose three objects to redesign in Art Deco style.

EVERYDAY OBJECTS:

Dog, sneaker, sandwich, fish, apple, car, phone, hat, bug, flower



circle



oval



eclipse



crescent



curvilinear
triangle



quatrefoil



parallelogram



square



rectangle



trapezoid



trapezium



triangle



kite



rhombus



pentagon



hexagon



heptagon



octagon



nonagon



decagon

TRIP WORKSHEET

NAME _____

DATE _____

WELCOME TO THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING WONDER OF THE MODERN WORLD

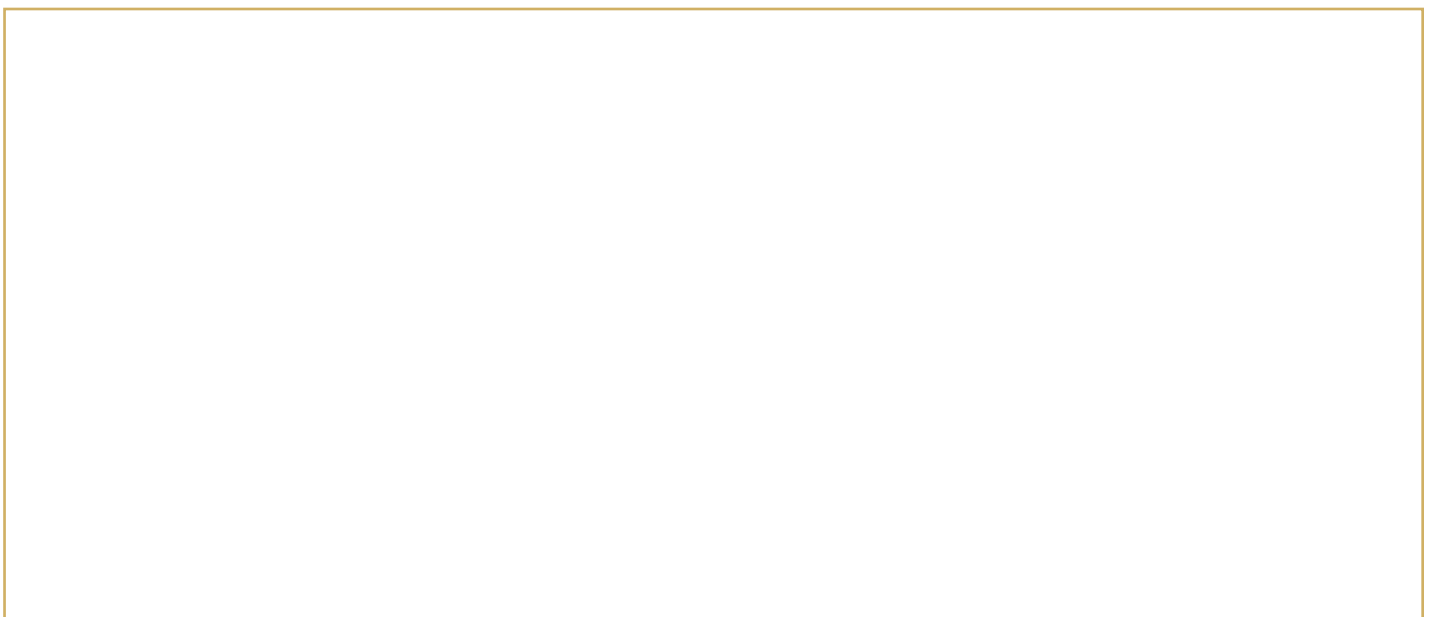
Take a few moments to observe the sketches and blueprints of the Empire State Building.

Compare and contrast the concept drawings to the finished building. Do you notice anything missing?



Next, use the space below to sketch a view of the building.

What Art Deco design features do you notice? Label them on your sketch.



ARTISTRY IN LIGHT

The newly reimagined and reengineered lighting display of the Empire State Building's spire has quickly become a staple of the way New York City celebrates its holidays. Record three color combinations and their corresponding holidays.

Use the exhibit signage to answer the questions below.

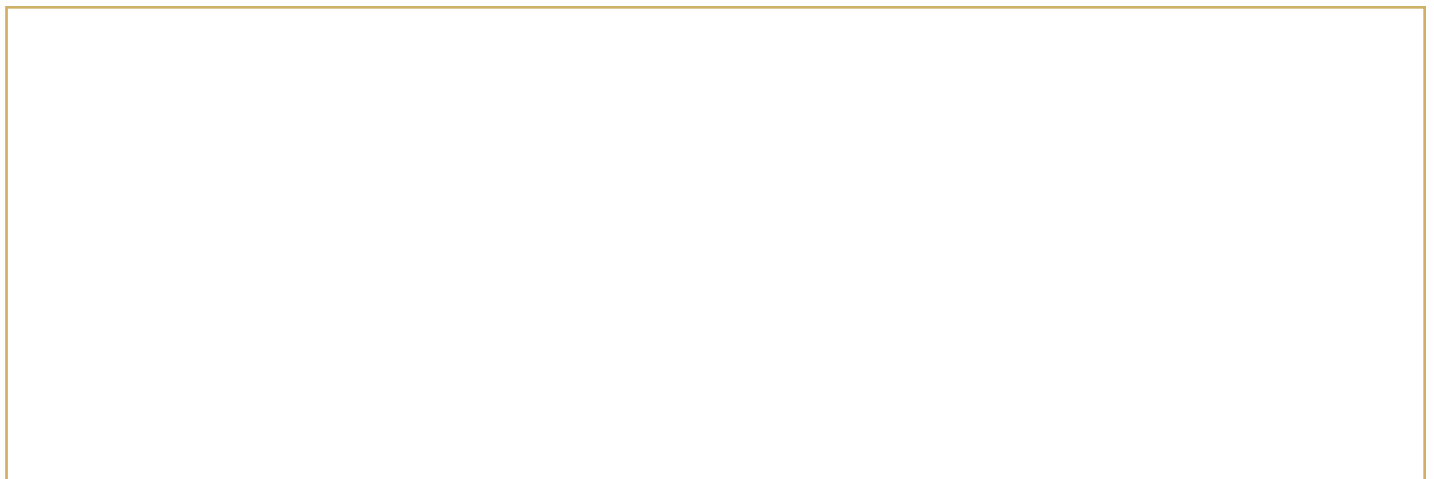
What is the name of the Empire State Building's lighting designer?

How many color combinations can the Empire State Building's LED lighting system make?

Record 3 color combinations, and the corresponding holiday/event:

If you were to design a holiday lighting theme, which holiday would you choose? What colors would you use? Why?

Next, turn around to look outside the windows where you can see details of the Empire State Building. Use the space below to sketch a view of the building. What Art Deco design features do you notice? Label them on your sketch.



TEACHER ANSWER KEY

ARTISTRY IN LIGHT

The newly reimagined and reengineered lighting display of the Empire State Building's spire has quickly become a staple of the way New York City celebrates its holidays. Record three color combinations and their corresponding holidays.

Use the exhibit signage to answer the questions below.

What is the name of the Empire State Building's lighting designer?

Marc Brickman and his design collective

How many color combinations can the Empire State Building's LED lighting system make?

16 million

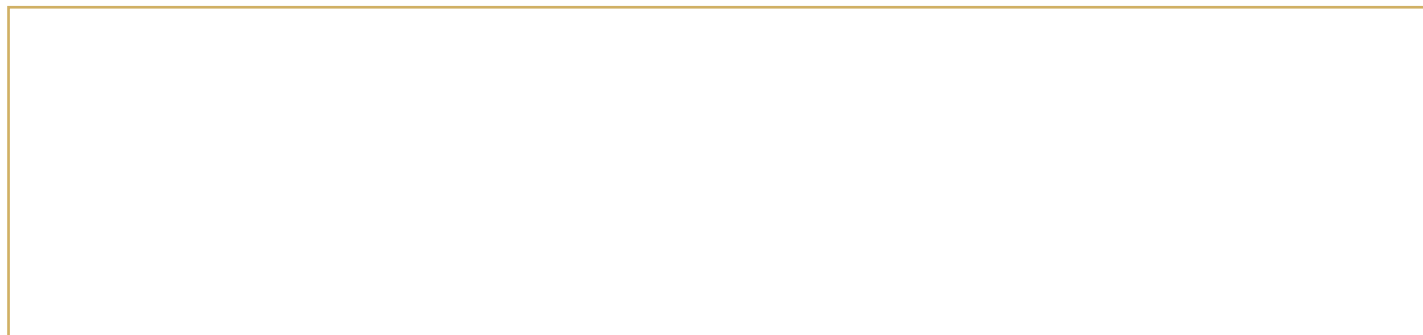
Record 3 color combinations, and the corresponding holiday/event:

Ex. Rainbow for Pride Day

Ex. Red, White, & Blue for July 4th

If you were to design a holiday lighting theme, which holiday would you choose? What colors would you use? Why?

Next, turn around to look outside the windows where you can see details of the Empire State Building. Use the space below to sketch a view of the building. What Art Deco design features do you notice? Label them on your sketch.



TRIP WORKSHEET

NAME _____

DATE _____

STEPHEN WILTSHIRE AND OBSERVATION DECK

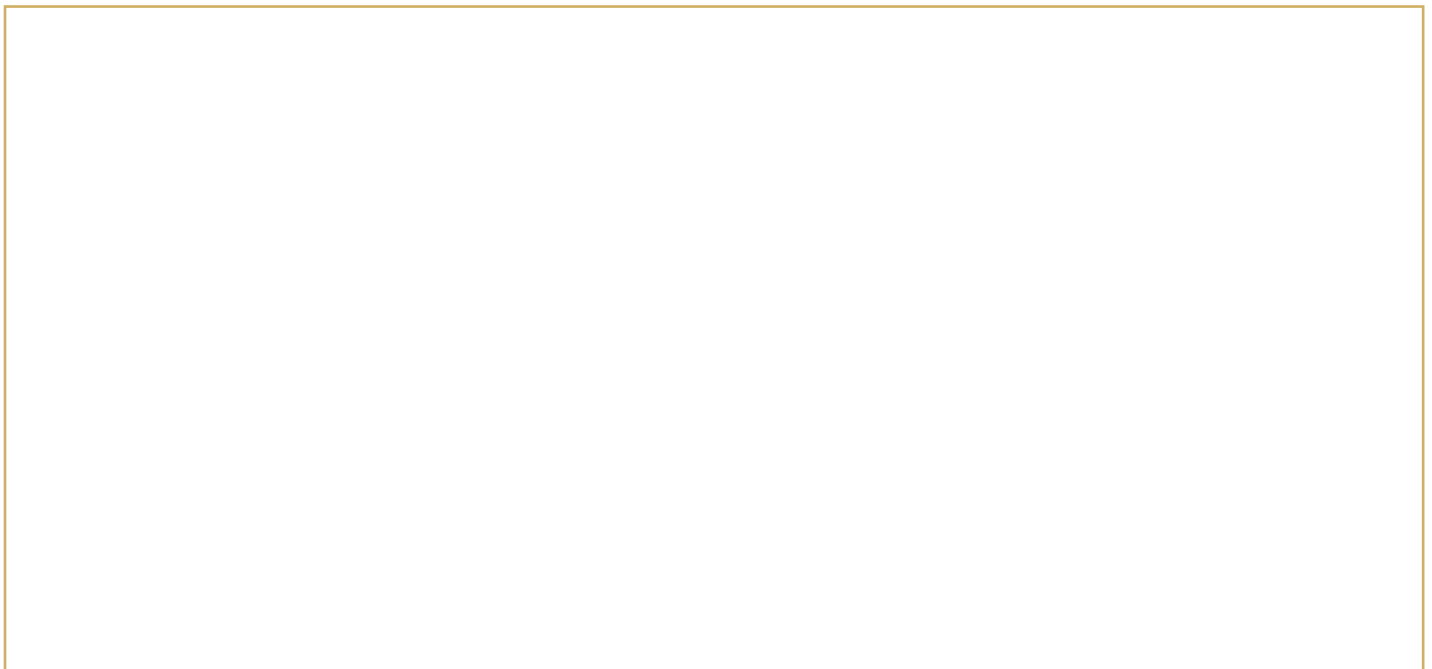
The incredibly talented artist Stephen Wiltshire created a complete picture of the New York City skyline using only his memory. Take a deep look at his work and find a few buildings or landmarks that you recognize. Use the space below to answer questions about Wiltshire's work.

What vehicle did Stephen Wiltshire ride in to view the NYC skyline?

How long was his ride?

How long did it take for him to create the drawing?

During your time on the Observation Deck, choose one section of the surrounding fencing and study the portion of the city you can see. Close your eyes and picture that scene. Turning away from the view, use the space provided below to sketch the cityscape from memory.



POST-TRIP WORKSHEET

NAME _____

DATE _____

POST-TRIP ACTIVITY: ART DECO TESSELLATIONS

During your trip through the Empire State Building, did you notice the Art Deco patterns on the walls? Now it's your turn to make your own! Utilizing the ruler to create a grid with 5cm squares on the black paper, use your Sharpies to create a repeating tessellation pattern on the grid. (See example grid below.)

