TITLE Indian Architecture GRADE(s) 1 - 4

TIME REQUIRED 10 - 15 minutes

CONCEPT STATEMENT

The student will learn about Indian architectural elements and style and will use them in the creation of a 2-dimensional, cut-paper building.

OBJECTIVES

1. Discuss elements of architecture commonly found in India (onion domes, arches, and columns).
2. Create a cut-paper temple, mosque or mausoleum using these various elements of architecture.

STANDARDS OF LEARNING CORRELATIONS

Visual Arts

1.7 The student will demonstrate the ability to recognize size relationships in works of art.
2.13 The student will compare the art, artifacts, and architecture of other cultures with that of their own culture.
3.17 The student will identify how works of art reflect times, places, and cultures.
4.14 The student will identify and describe the influences of ancient cultures on Early American architecture.

MATERIALS

1. glue sticks
2. black markers
3. paper cutouts of different architectural elements (dome, column, arch) - cut from white, brown or red cardstock or construction paper
4. variety of paper squares and rectangles to serve as basic building forms - cut from white, brown or red cardstock or construction paper
5. full sheets of black construction paper or cardstock

VOCABULARY

1. architecture - buildings of any kind and in any form.
2. column - a structural element that takes the weight of the building it supports and distributes it to the ground below.
3. onion dome - an archiectural element that resembles the shape of an onion. It is bulbous and tapers to a point.
4. arch - a curved, semi-circular architectural element that spans a space and carries a load from above.
5. mosque - a Muslim temple or place of public worship.
6. mausoleum - a stately and magnificient tomb.
7. temple - an edifice or place dedicated to the service or worship of a deity or deities.

OVERVIEW (List VMFA resources and other resources used)

Background/Discussion:

Mughal architecture flourished on the Indian subcontinent during the Mughal empire from 1526-1857. Under the patronage of the Mughal emperors various styles, including Persian and Indian, were used together to produce works of great quality and unusual style. Early Mughal building uses arches sparingly, relying instead on post and lintel construction. They are built of red sandstone or white marble. Mughal architecture peaked during the reign of the emperor Shah Jahan (1628-1858) with its crowning achievement being the Taj Mahal. This period is marked by a use of the double dome, a recessed archway, and park-like surroundings filled with gardens and reflecting pools. Symmetry and balance between the parts of the building were always stressed while the delicacy of details is world-renowned. It was during this final stage of Mughal architecture that whtie marble was used.

Visit the VMFA South Asian Galleries to see some images of architecture from India!

1. Govardhanlalji Makes Offering at the Shri Nathji Mandira in Nathadwara, Object No. 2000.17
2. Shekhavati Traders, near Jaipur, Object No. 2012.282, http://vmfa.museum/collections/art/shekhavati-traders-near-jaipur/
3. Garden Pavilion, Object No. 2005.2, http://vmfa.museum/collections/art/garden-pavilion/

VMFA Enrichment Activities:

Seek and find at the VMFA!

1. Piazza San Marco, Francesco Guardi (Italian), Object No. 53.36, European Galleries, Level 2, http://vmfa.museum/collections/art/piazza-san-marco/
2. The Colosseum and the Arch of Constantine, Giovanni Paolo Panini (Italian), Object No. 65.27, European Galleries, Level 2, (http://vmfa.museum/collections/art/colosseum-arch-constantine/)
3. House at Dusk, Edward Hopper (American), Object No. 53.8, American Galleries, Level 2 (http://vmfa.museum/collections/art/house-dusk_53-8/)

The buildings in these paintings are from different places and times. What kinds of buildings do you think these are? (city square, arena, home). Can you identify any architectural elements in these artworks that are also found on your creation? (arches, domes, columns, etc.). What makes these buildings different from your creation?

Download a VMFA gallery map here!
http://vmfa.museum/visit/plan-ahead/gallery-maps/

Other Enrichment Resources:

Website/s:
1. The famous Taj Mahal! http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Educational+Taj+Mahal&view=detail&mid=CBC174FA8E6E7533B323CBC174FA8E6E7533B323&first=0&FORM=NVPFVR
2. Mughal architecture: background and history http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/southasia/Culture/Archit/Mugarch.html

ACTIVITY DIRECTIONS

Lesson Procedure:

1. Each student will be provided with a full sheet of black cardstock or construction paper.

2. Begin by gluing the largest square or rectangle cutout (the shape of the building) onto the black paper near the center of the paper.

3. Have the student select which architectural elements he/she would like to include on his/her building.

4. Glue the selected cutouts onto the shape of the building already glued onto the black paper.

5. Students may add more squares/rectangles on either side of the largest square if desired in order to create a more elaborate building.

6. Layering the different elements of the building should produce a shallow bas-relief effect.

7. After gluing is completed have the students draw in the details of their building with black marker. Details can include windows, doors, carvings/patterns, etc.

Closure/Evaluation:

Have the student identify each architectural element they used in their completed building by asking the following questions:

1. Where is an onion dome on your building?
2. Do you have any columns?
3. What about arches?