

Architecture DBQ

WHAT IS ARCHITECTURE?



Asking that question is like asking what society is?" The two are so intimately linked. Similarly as a country's legal system is an outcome of a peoples' values as a democracy, so too architecture is an extension of what society is, an expression of desire that has been given physical form. To quote Frank Lloyd Wright, "**Architecture is life**; or at least it is life itself taking form and therefore it is the truest record of life as it was lived in the world yesterday, as it is lived today or ever will be lived."

The first written record of the theory of architecture, was by Vitruvius in the 1st Century. In his book "*De architectura*" he summed up architecture as being a balance of, *firmitatis utilitatis venustatis*; Firmness (Durability), Commodity (Utility) and Delight (Beauty). Nothing has really changed regarding these fundamentals.

Architecture's sole purpose is to create spaces for humans, it is the synthesis of cultures and identities along with the elemental need, professed in the physical form, for enclosure and shelter, architecture is the meeting point of the need to build and the innate urge to communicate.

The field of architecture is very broad, and ranges from the small detail of how a door handles looks, feels and works, through to huge urban design schemes that administer our cities. Children playing 'house' are their own *architects*, making real their fantasies by grouping a couple of chairs together and throwing a blanket over them, and calling it their castle. **This is architecture.**

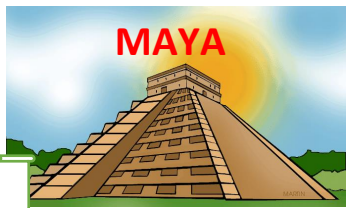
1. What is the definition of architecture? _____

2. Vitruvius said architecture is a balance of _____, _____

and _____.

3. Combine your answers to #1 and #2 to write a brief summary of the reading.

PYRAMIDS



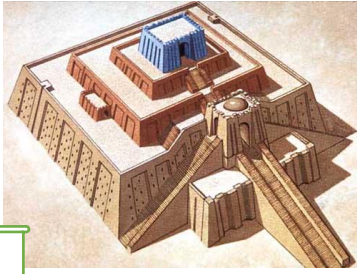
Click on one of the pyramids and answer the questions:

1. Describe the pyramid you chose with three adjectives _____
_____ and _____.

2. Choose one of the three principles of Vitruvius that best applies to this pyramid.

3. Use your three adjectives to briefly explain why you chose your answer to #2.

TEMPLES



MESOPOTAMIAN
ZIGGURAT



ANCIENT GREECE



ISLAMIC MOSQUE

Click on one of the temples and answer the questions:

1. Describe how the temple you chose reflects the religious beliefs of the society that built it.

2. Was the temple you chose built by a monotheistic or a polytheistic society? (Circle one)

3. Use at least two complete sentences to explain how this temple might be different if it were built by a society that had the other type of religion. (For example, if it was built by a monotheistic society, how would it have been different if it was built by a polytheistic society?)

MONUMENTS



ANCIENT CHINA
TERRACOTTA WARRIORS



ANCIENT ROME
ARCH OF CONSTANTINE



ANGKOR WAT
CAMBODIA

Click on one of the monuments and answer the questions:

1. Describe how the monument you chose reflects the cultural values of the people that built it.

2. Does this monument primarily relate to government, religion, or art? (Circle one)

3. In the first reading, architecture is described as “the meeting point of the need to build and the innate urge to communicate”. (*Innate refers to something you are born with.*) Describe how the monument you chose fits those two ideas.

How does it show that society’s need to build?

How does it show that society’s need to communicate?

Articles linked in the DBQ – next to each hyperlinked picture is a clipart of a small scroll. By clicking that scroll, the student will be taken to a brief article about the building shown in the picture.

Egyptian Pyramids

<http://www.kidspast.com/world-history/00751-pyramid-of-giza.php>

Mayan Pyramids

http://www.ducksters.com/history/maya/pyramids_and_architecture.php

Aztec Pyramids

<http://www.aztec-history.com/aztec-temples.html>

Ziggurat

<http://mesopotamia.mrdonn.org/ziggurats.html>

Parthenon

<http://study.com/academy/lesson/parthenon-facts-lesson-for-kids.html>

Selimeye Mosque, Turkey

<http://lostislamichistory.com/the-greatest-architect-of-all-time/>

Terra Cotta Warriors, China

http://www.ducksters.com/history/china/terracotta_army.php

Arch of Constantine, Rome

<http://www.ancient-rome-history-facts.com/Famous-Ancient-Roman-Architecture-Facts/Arch-of-Constantine-Facts.shtml>

Angkor Wat, Cambodia

<http://mocomi.com/angkor-wat/>

