Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon

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Questions and Activities

1. Philip was an architect. What does an architect do? What do you notice on the cover of the book that gives you some clues about what architects do, and what Philip did?

2. Practice experiencing the world like Philip did by sitting outside in your neighborhood. What do you hear, feel, smell, or notice about the buildings around you or in the neighborhood where you live?

3. Philip decided he wanted to change the world by designing buildings that celebrate his Black heritage. Why was it important for Philip to design buildings that reflect Black History? What inspired him to create these buildings? Learn more about the buildings Philip designed including the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture and National Center for Civil and Human Rights. What type of buildings would you design if you were an architect? Who would the buildings be for?

4. Philip designed different types of buildings all over the world. Research other Black architects who designed important buildings. Is there a building in your town or city, or in a city nearby that was designed by a Black architect?

5. Who is an important figure in your community? What did this person do that makes them significant? What buildings or places tell their story?