



# *The Shape of the World: A Portrait of Frank Lloyd Wright*

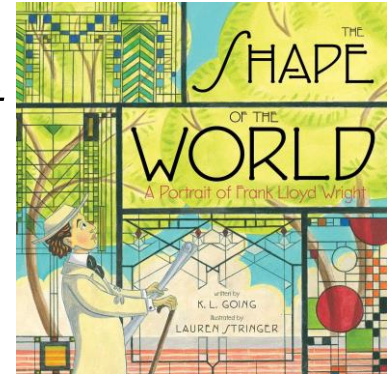
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Grades 3-5

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## Discussion Questions

### Before Reading

- Let's look at the cover. Do you have any guesses about who Frank Lloyd Wright was? What do you think he did?
- What kind of shapes do you see on the cover page?

### During Reading

- In the book, Frank Lloyd Wright discovers a secret that "every shape has many shapes." How many shapes can you find in the different block structures he created?
- Why do you think Frank Lloyd Wright chose to design "windows over walls?" What images of nature can you find within his buildings?

### After Reading

- How did Frank Lloyd Wright change the shape of the world?
- What kind of shapes are we surrounded by in this room? What about outside?
- Where else can we find shapes? What shapes were used to create the building that we're in right now? What shapes do you think inspire architects of today?
- Frank Lloyd Wright was inspired by the shapes he saw in nature. What about nature inspires you? Are there things about your neighborhood that inspire your imagination?



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## Suggested Vocabulary Words

**Architect:** person who designs buildings

**Expanse:** a large space, typically land or sea

**Jagged:** having sharp and rough edges

**Marveled:** to be impressed by someone or something

**Portrait:** a painting, drawing, or photograph of a person

## Activity Ideas

### Paper Windows

#### Materials

Liquid starch or white glue

Tissue paper (non-bleeding)

Black wax crayons

Scissors

Paintbrushes

- Print a few photos of leaded glass windows designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and post them around the classroom for inspiration. Have the students identify any specific designs within the windows, and what they represent.
- Brainstorm different things found in nature—such as plants, flowers, or water, and the shapes that can be found in them. Remind students to think about shapes that inspire them, as well as shapes they might not use often such as, trapezoids, diamonds, or parallelograms.
- Encourage the students to cut shapes from the tissue paper and arrange them on the wax paper as a design before gluing.
- Brush white glue or liquid starch on top of the paper to adhere it to the wax paper.
- Let the papers dry overnight. The next day, instruct students to draw a black border around the shapes. Borders will add definition and give the illusion of a leaded glass window.

### Inspired By Nature

#### Materials

Paper

Colored pencils

- Print out pictures of buildings and homes designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Split the class into small groups and let them discuss what elements of nature they think were used in the design of the building. These could be seasons, physical features and landscapes, shapes, or colors.
- Next, instruct students to design a building for their community using at least one element of nature. Take them outside or provide images from various nature settings for inspiration.

