



Lesson: Creating your own Brazilian Architecture

Artform: Visual Art, Math and Architecture

Skill Level: High

Teaching Artist: Myrna Meeroff

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Introduce the culture of Brazil through it's architecture

- Students will explore Brazilian culture through its architecture
- Students will use skills to create an architectural replica
- Students will create their own replica to scale of the Cathedral Brasilia

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Brazil is the largest country in South America. It is the only country in South America that speaks Portuguese. It became a Portuguese colony in April of 1500. There are many native tribes in Brazil including the Aymores and the Guarani. Brazil is the home of the Amazon rain forest.

The architecture of Brazil was for many years considered neoclassical, meaning it was designed to replicate the architecture of the 1750-1820. The most well known architecture in Brazil is it's modern architecture.

The Cathedral Brasilia was designed by Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer in 1970. This is an example of modern architecture.

Circumference is the distance around the outside of a circle.

MATERIALS

- Paper or plastic bowl
- 10 straws
- Tape (packing tape works best)
- Scissors
- Ruler (it is easier if the ruler is flexible)
- Pencil
- Rubber band

ACTIVITIES

1. Place the bowl face down on the table.
2. Use the string to measure the circumference of the bowl.
3. Measure the amount of string needed to go all around the bowl using the ruler.
4. Take that number and divide by ten. This will tell you how far apart your poles will go.
5. Make a mark on the lip of the bowl, this will be your starting point. This is where your first straw will go.
6. Take the number after you divided in No. 4 and measure from the mark you made already made on the lip of the bowl. Continue to do this all around the bottom of the bowl.

7. Tape one straw at each mark. (see image below)
8. If the straws are long enough, you can use a rubber band to tie them together at the top.
9. Does it look like the Brasilia in the picture?
10. Name all the shapes that went in to making this structure. Do you see the circles, the lines that are curved?
11. Does it remind you of anything by it's shape? Maybe a spaceship or a thorny plant?
12. Look at the architecture around you, what shapes do you see? Is your house square or can you see any circles or triangles there too?
13. If you like, you can look up more info on architects and their styles with your parents guidance, see: Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies Van der Rohe, Phillip Johnson, Eero Saarinen, Frank Gehry, Santiago Calatrava, Zaha Hadid

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR INCLUDING ALL CHILDREN

- Have some larger pencils for those with motor issues
- Can use hand over hand for those with motor issues or provide handles such as a tennis ball with a slit in it where you can put a pencil for an easy grip on it
- Have extra straws on hand in case.

Cathedral Brasilia



Final version



Make a mark on the edge of the foam bowl with a pencil.



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