

Compare and Contrast: Pueblo Style Architecture of New Mexico to Frank Lloyd Wright Architecture of the Midwest

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About the Lesson

Using the materials provided, texts, and research materials, students will compare and contrast Pueblo Style Architecture to the Usonian of Frank Lloyd Wright. Consideration will need to be made to the differing locations and environments of these architectural styles, impact on their environments, and changes communities face with tides of tourism, gentrification, and colonialism.

Standards and Grade Level

Based on 9th Grade New Mexico History Standards and Benchmarks

https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/SocialStudiesStandards_9-12.pdf

9-12 Benchmark 2-B: analyze natural and man-made characteristics of worldwide locales; describe regions, their interrelationships and patterns of change:

Performance Standards

1. Analyze the interrelationships among natural and human processes that shape the geographic connections and characteristics of regions, including connections among economic development, urbanization, population growth and environmental change;
2. Analyze how the character and meaning of a place is related to its economic, social and cultural characteristics, and why diverse groups in society view places and regions differently;
4. Analyze and evaluate why places and regions are important to human identity (e.g., sacred tribal grounds, culturally unified neighborhoods)

Classroom Time

This lesson will take approximately five class periods. However, this lesson could easily develop into a unit plan based on the heavy focus on NM State Standards on culture, environment and community.

Resources

1. Architecture of New Mexico
<https://www.cabq.gov/artsandculture/albuquerque-museum/casa-san-ysidro/documents/museum-lesson-architecture-of-new-mexico.pdf>
2. Spanish Mission Architecture:
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/travelspanishmissions/architecture-and-preservation.htm>
3. Pueblo Revival Style Architecture
<https://www.hgtv.com/design/decorating/design-101/pueblo-revival-architecture>
4. Frank Lloyd Wright: Natural Design (book)
5. Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation <https://franklloydwright.org/>
6. Usonia: Jacobs 1 <https://usonia1.com/restoration/>
7. Usonia Episode 343 99% Invisible <https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/usonia/>

8. Typical Climate of Midwestern States
<https://traveltips.usatoday.com/typical-climate-midwestern-united-states-103926.html>
9. Climate Impact in the Midwest
<https://climatechange.chicago.gov/climate-impacts/climate-impacts-midwest>
10. Stuccoed in Time Episode 429 99% Invisible
<https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/stuccoed-in-time/>
11. Taos Earthships <https://www.earthshipglobal.com/design-principles>

Background

Pueblo style architecture was traditionally utilized by the Pueblo people and is typically found in the state of New Mexico. Structures are constructed out of adobe and have roofs supported by “vigas” which are wooden beams. As the Spanish colonized New Mexico, they brought their own architectural styles including Spanish Colonial and Mission. In the 1920’s and 1930’s Pueblo Revival style emerged as a blend between all three of these architectural styles. The styles of architecture were in response to the environmental needs of the people as well as the mixing of different cultures due to colonialism. Frank Lloyd Wright was an architect based predominantly in the Midwest. The Japanese culture and regional landscape heavily influenced Wright as he created buildings that were aesthetically pleasing and functional. Mid-way thru his career, Wright was commissioned to create an affordable home costing \$5,000 for the Jacobs family. He labeled the home Usonian and it would become the basis of affordable housing designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

Objectives

Students will:

- Research different architectural styles such as Pueblo, Spanish Mission, Pueblo Revival Style on New Mexico and the organic architecture and usonian homes of Frank Lloyd Wright.
- Consider how the environment of regions throughout the United States influence how homes are designed and constructed.
- Compare and contrast the styles of Frank Lloyd Wright housing to the of Pueblo Revival Style housing common in New Mexico.

Lesson Plan

This lesson is designed for a 9th grade New Mexico History Class. Students will be learning the content while in class, small group and individual settings. The teacher will review the activities and requirements at the start of each new lesson. Element and reference resources will be available to students throughout the entirety of the lesson.

Activity #1: “You are given a piece of land” (small group)

1. Student will be separated into small groups and given a piece of land (piece of paper and picture of NM landscape or Midwestern landscape found on google earth by the students themselves)
2. As a group they will need to develop their land and design a home that is sustainable based on the region they were assigned. The home will need to take into consideration:

- a. Environmental conditions including temperature, weather, climate and landscape,
 - b. Available supplies and sustainability of supplies (Source: RAKS building supply),
 - c. The number of people set to live in the home comfortably (# of group members).
3. Students will take one class period to design their homes using available classroom materials and internet resources.
4. Students will present their homes to the class and explain the details of the region they were assigned. Every group will need to answer three student generated questions from the audience.
 - a. Student questions are meant to stimulate conversation about the sustainability of the design.

Activity #2: Research of Types of Regional Architecture

1. In the same small groups students will be provided with the resources listed in sources section above of architecture from their respective assigned regions.
2. Students will need to find 3 additional resources to add to their teacher provided resources.
3. Students will create a power point/google slides including the SPICE Elements (Social, Political, Interaction, Culture, Environmental), Fun Slide, Changes they plan to make to their homes.
 - a. Note: Students were provided with SPICE Charts at the beginning of the course.
4. Students will present their project to the class.

Activity #3: Home Renovations and Bridging the Knowledge Gap

1. Following the presentations student will be assigned to listen to the podcast 99% Invisible “Usonia” as homework and complete a notebook entry about what they learned
2. In class students will “Share Out” what they learned from the podcast.
3. Next students will be given time to make Renovations to their homes based on what they learned from the presentations and podcast episode
 - a. Ideally students will understand that elements in their desert homes like a pool and grass are unsustainable while making a home out of the traditional adobe that New Mexicans are accustomed to seeing would not be ideal in the more humid, wet environments of the Midwest.

Activity #4: Compare and Contrast

1. Individually students will write an extended response comparing the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright to the Pueblo Revival Style Architecture found throughout New Mexico.

Activity #5: Connection to You (New Mexicans)

2. As a whole class we will listen to “Stuccoed in Time” from 99% Invisible for a class discussion (note: teachers accessing this lesson may not be teaching in NM so this portion can be skipped or replaced with a discussion more suitable to your region)
 - a. Guiding Questions:
 - i. How do communities change over time? How is your community changing?

- ii. What is the importance of having stable housing?
- iii. How did the attempt to maintain the architectural integrity of the homes in Santa Fe ultimately lead to the displacement of local residents?

Post Lesson Notes:

Where this lesson ends is at a perfect spot to continue exploration about the influences of people and cultures via colonialism, waves of tourism and modern day gentrification on the communities of New Mexico.