

Portals

Essential Question	How does an architect create a design for a specific space and purpose?
Grade	5th
Time	50 minutes
Art Concepts	Architecture, sketching, architectural model-making, scale
Materials	Blank paper, pencil, eraser, pencil sharpener, cardboard or any thick paper, scissors, tape
Artworks in Focus	Architectural Sketch, circa 1819 by Artist Unknown Temple Archway with Oil Lamps and Auspicious Animal, 1863 by Artist Unknown
Talking about Art	<p>Architecture is an art and design form that defines physical spaces. These architectural artworks were created by two artists from different parts of the world nearly fifty years apart. What unites them is that they are both artist's representations of physical spaces for people to use. These artworks are portals—entrances, arches, or openings into a building. How does each artist choose to design/represent their architectural space? Simplified? Detailed? What does the style of the space say about what the portal may lead into? These artworks are at a smaller size, or scale, than what the actual structure will be. Does the artwork articulate clearly how tall or wide the portal will be?</p>
Making Art	<p>Begin by looking around the room you are in. Pick a place in the room at which you would design a portal that leads to another space. It can be realistic like a doorway from your bedroom to the backyard, or it can be fantastic, maybe a portal from your living room leading to a city floating in the sky.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. With a pencil, draw a rough sketch of your portal. A rough sketch is drawn lightly so you can erase, and make changes. A sketch is used to plan where you want to put lines. Feel free to let your hand create loose line shapes. Experiment with forms and play with how you draw. Try closing your eyes and moving the paper while you are drawing. Think of what is on the other side of the portal. Also decide on the scale of your portal: Is it tall enough so that any human can walk through it?

It may take a few rough sketches to arrive at a final design that you are happy with.

2. Based on your sketch, fold, bend, and/or cut cardboard/paper with scissors to create a **model** of your portal.
3. Use tape to hold your model together. Some elements and ideas from your initial sketches may change as you make the model, which is fine—let new ideas emerge during the model-making process as well.
4. After you have built your model, name your portal.

Reflection

How did your portal design change from the sketch to making the model? How does your portal design give clues as to what is on the other side of the portal?

Curriculum Connections

California Arts Standards for Public Schools—Visual Arts

5.VA:Cr1.1: Combine ideas to generate an innovative idea for art-making. 5.VA:Cr2.1: Experiment and develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches through practice. 5.VA:Cn10: Apply formal and conceptual vocabularies of art and design to view surroundings in new ways through art-making.

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