

ACTIVITY 1: Draw Your Home

Draw in Class

Ask students to do a detailed sketch of their home in class. Remind them to think of the number of stories in the building, what the roofline is like, the placement of doors and windows, the materials from which the building is constructed and any decorative details.

Draw Again at Home

Ask students to do a detailed, accurate drawing of their home, with the building in front of them for constant visual reference. Graph paper might help with accurate placement of windows, doors, etc. Encourage them to measure to help place and space doors, windows, etc. accurately. Pay close attention to the roofline and chimney, styles of windows, decorative details. Where possible, detail the building materials in your sketch.

If the building has siding, it is possible to get an estimate of the height by measuring the pitch (height) of one board or shingle and then counting the number of boards.

Compare

Compare the first memory sketch with the more sophisticated drawing. Which provides the most information? Post all the drawings and look at the various styles of housing. How many students live in apartment buildings? How many live in single residences? Do any live in multi-purpose buildings (e.g., store plus residence)? Are various styles represented?

Extension

Art Lesson: Using the accurate drawing of their homes for reference, students draw their homes in pencil on a sheet of painting paper. The drawings will need to be "scaled up" providing some interesting mathematics questions.

When the drawings are completed, the students paint their homes with water colour or tempera.

When the paintings are dry, outline the buildings with black ink. For an interesting experience, provide pens with nibs to be dipped into the ink, such as children used at school up until the 1960s.