

Architecture Badge

(Written by Doreen Olson)



Otters: Choose four activities, including the one starred.

_____ 1* What is architecture? What makes it an art? What could science and math have to do with architecture? What does an architect do? Find some architect's drawings or models to observe. These can be in a public location as historic pieces or future plans OR you can visit the office of an architect to see a current project.

_____ 2.* Find pictures of the buildings from 3 different ancient civilizations. What makes their buildings different?

_____ 3. Learn the definitions of 6 architectural terms and find photos or draw pictures to illustrate the terms. Use your illustrations to give a report to your troop, explain the definitions to someone outside your family or to make a poster for your family's wall.

_____ 4. Draw a floor plan of your bedroom.

_____ 5. Design your dream home. What would it look like? What kind of rooms would it need to have. Draw a floor plan and illustrate what the outside would look like.

_____ 6. Using blocks or sugar cubes create your own building.

Dolphins: Do 5 requirements including the 2 starred.

_____ 1.* What is architecture? What makes it an art? What could science and math have to do with architecture? What does an architect do? Find some architect's drawings or models to observe. These can be in a public location as historic pieces or future plans OR you can visit the office of an architect to see a current project.

_____ 2.* Read at least two books about each of three ancient civilizations. Write a description of what makes the architecture different for each of the civilizations.

_____ 3. Same as Otter #3 except illustrate 8 architectural terms.

_____ 4. Find a company or government agency that's planning to build a building. Draw your own idea of what the building should look like. Take into consideration what materials will make it last a long time and the type of work that will be done in it—do they need big windows for lots of light? Do they need convenient parking right near the front door?

_____ 5. Read the biography of a famous architect or the story of how a famous building was built.

_____ 6. Using blocks, sugar cubes, or a pre-made kit, make (1) a replica of a famous building or (2) design your own buildings to illustrate a dome, more than one type of arch, columns, an entablature, a buttress, and a pediment.

_____ 7. Make plans for an imaginary trip to a faraway city. List the famous buildings you could see and estimate how long it would take to tour at least two of them. Find out if the buildings you've chosen are close together or whether you would have to see them on two separate days.

Butterflies: Choose six activities, including the two starred.

_____ 1.* Read about architecture in an encyclopedia. What do you find most interesting about architecture? Why can't architects usually build their own designs? What kind of things do you think an architect would need to study in school?

_____ 2.* Read at least two well-illustrated books about each of four ancient civilizations. Try to identify the two most famous structures of each civilization and write out why they are famous. What makes the styles different?

_____ 3. Same as Otter #3, but illustrate ten terms instead of eight.

_____ 4. Read some of David Macaulay's books or watch movies based on his books. Share something you learn with a friend or relative and also do a report for your troop. What makes his books more interesting than some of the others about architecture? Can you find any similar books that you like better?

_____ 5. Read biographies of two famous architects. Write a short report on the book you prefer.

_____ 6. Same as Dolphin #6, but also build examples of vaults and towers.

_____ 7. Plan an imaginary architectural tour of a country that includes two cities and as many buildings as you think you could see in two weeks. Would these buildings come from several different time periods? If you had to shorten your visit to one week, which structures would you consider most important? Do the buildings you want to see have regular tours? How much do they cost? Write out the results of your research & planning.

_____ 8. Take an architectural tour of a city near your home (population over 25,000). Find examples of at least four different styles of home and two different styles of office or public buildings. Identify as many parts of the buildings as possible and find out which are the oldest homes and the oldest public buildings. Can you find out anything about any of the architects that built the bigger buildings?

Eagle: Choose seven of the following, including the two starred.

_____ 1.* Do Otter #1 and draw your own version of the architect's drawings or models that you saw. Pretend something needs to be changed on the project, such as making the building twice as big or half as big as the real one and show how you would do that.

_____ 2.* Read two books about each of four different ancient civilizations. If you did this badge earlier, choose civilizations you did not study previously. Identify the characteristics of the ancient buildings that make them unique to that civilization. Find good maps that show where the civilizations were located. Present pictures of buildings of at least one of the civilizations to your troop & point out the unique features.

_____ 3. Otter #3, but illustrate twelve architectural terms.

_____ 4. Find someone who is planning to build a house or building & find out what features they want in the building. Draw a floor plan that you think might work. Have an adult look at the plan and give you constructive criticism. See if you can compare your plans with the plans that the owner has drawn up. Is there something important that you forgot? What did they do differently that you really liked?

_____ 5. Read books about their work, or biographies of three famous architects. If you are repeating this badge, choose different architects this time. Write out the best features of each of the books and tell your troop about at least one of them OR read a fourth book about one of the same architects and write out a comparison of the two books.

_____ 6. Same as Dolphin #6, but no pre-made kits allowed. Either illustrate fourteen architectural terms,

or seven terms in two different styles (Roman vs. Egyptian).

_____ 7. Same as Butterfly #7. Your destinations must be different than any used previously. Find illustrations or photos of the buildings you want to see & include them in your plans.

_____ 8. Same as Butterfly #8, but the city you visit should have a population of 50,000 or more. If you are far away from a city that big, you can just combine two cities whose populations equal 50,000.

_____ 9. Draw floor plans to scale of at least two rooms in your house or a building near you. If you need to include more rooms to total at least 400 square feet, do so. On a separate paper, list what you think are the best features of the rooms or else list the changes you would have made had you been the architect.