

Opening (on the carpeted area) : Tell about a time you built something impressive (explain word) . Ex: Lego windmill in 5th grade, with Dad, took 2 hours, took it to show and tell.)

Ask students: “Think about a time when you have built something impressive. Maybe it was with play dough, legos, blocks, gingerbread, sugar cubes, snow or anything else. Who were you with? Why did you build it? How long did it take? What did you do with it afterward? Take a minute, without talking, and think of something. (wait a few moments.) Now turn to as neighbor and tell them about it, next listen to your neighbor’s story.” After a while, let kids who want to share their story with the whole group.

Information: Show pictures of the TAJ MAHAL. Have students say “TAJ MAHAL” aloud in unison several times. Share some key facts.

→ In Agra, India

→ Shah Jahan, an emperor of India, built this for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, after she passed away. It was a mausoleum – this is where her tomb was, or where she was buried. (Compare to the pyramids.)

→ Shah Jahan wanted this building to be the most grand building ever built. 20,000 people worked on this building for 22 years! It is an enormous building with many gardens, walking paths and a big pond with rare fish.

→ Some of the most expensive and luxurious materials were used to make this building: jade, crystal, alabaster, marble, turquoise and red sandstone. (Hold up fake crystals to show what they may have looked like.) A very grand building.

→The TAJ MAHAL was built almost 500 years ago. After a few hundred years, the building started to fall apart. About 100 years ago they fixed it up to look beautiful again.

Brainstorm:

→ Look at the building again. How many arches do you see? How many domes do you see? How many towers do you see? When something is repeated, it is called a pattern. Do you see any patterns?

→ “Let’s think of words to describe the Taj Mahal. Let’s try to finish this sentence ‘The Taj Mahal is...’ ” Write words on the wipe board. Students will use these to complete the handout. (big, old, beautiful, grand, in India)

Art time (back to the tables):

Directions: Every student gets a Taj Mahal Handout. First, students should use the words on the board to complete the sentence. Next, students can color and use gems to decorate the picture. Encourage them to create patterns with the colors and gems.