

POSSIBLE PRESENTATION FOR ARCHITECTURE MATERIAL FOR THIRD GRADE

- Discuss the meaning of architecture and what an architect is.
- Discuss the importance of strength in architecture. Strength is more important than style. A fancy building is no good if it's not strong and won't last.
- Discuss the fact that buildings are designed and built a certain way for a certain reason. A firehouse is built with a big opening to allow a fire truck to fit in. It would be silly to build a firehouse the same way you would build a library.
- Show the poster of our Capitol Building. Ask the children if it is familiar, explain what it is, that this is where our Legislative Branch of government does it's job.
- Explain that the Capitol Building, just like every other building, looks the way it looks for a reason:

After the Revolutionary War ended and we had won our independence, our nation was ready to build a capital city. We had hard feelings toward England and their form of government. We didn't want our new government *or our government buildings* to remind anybody of England. We didn't want any country to think of us as a "baby England." We also knew all new governments are weak, and we knew it was important to appear strong. We wanted our system of government based on values we felt strongly about, values such as: law and order, fairness of our laws, democracy, and the importance of the opinions of all citizens. The values of our founding fathers reflected the values of the ancient Greeks and Romans. The ancient Greeks and Romans had strong systems of government. So our founding fathers designed our government and our government buildings to resemble and remind people of the values and strength of the Greeks and Romans.

Greek values influenced America's system of government & architecture:

- Democracy: Representation through our House of Representatives is proportional to our nation's population, signifying the value of every American's opinion. More representative of the "common people."
- Education was valued
- Fair Laws and a court system were valued

- Open town meetings encouraged to give people a voice (the intended purpose of designing The Mall in Washington DC where people gather to voice their concerns.)
- Healthy bodies and fitness were valued
- Use of columns in architecture (show the children a book of Greek architecture & point out the use of columns).
- The House of Representatives is in one wing of the Capitol Bld.

Roman values influenced America's system of government & architecture:

- Republicanism: Representation based on broader territories (because the Roman Empire was so large). Longer terms for elected officials. Non-monarchy system of government. Representation through our Senate is based on republicanism.
- Entertainment was valued
- Law and order valued
- Large scale construction was utilized reflecting the vastness & great population of the Roman Empire
- Quality city planning (observe the deliberate and well thought out layout of our nations capital).
- Domes & arches in architecture (show children a book of Roman architecture & point out the use of domes & arches).
- The Senate is in the other wing of the Capitol Bld.

Activity: Use index card activity which stresses the strength of columns found at:
<http://www.norfolk-county.com/aerc/teacheractivities.html>