

North Country Heritage

Photo courtesy of the Adirondack History Center Museum / Essex County Historical Society



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North Country Heritage is an architectural education program for students designed to support New York State Learning Standards for the fourth grade level. The program was developed by Bonnie MacLeod for the Essex Community Heritage Organization (ECHO) with funding from the New York State Council on the Arts and the Westport and Moriah Central School Districts. It has been offered in local school districts since 1998 as part of ECHO's North Country Heritage Program. Through a joint effort of the Essex County Historical Society and ECHO, the program has been redesigned, augmented, and made more widely available to educators.

The curriculum has been developed to help children understand the basic principles of architectural design and construction, and how the buildings we live with influence our lives. The program also attempts to foster in young people a deeper connection to the community in which they live - an appreciation for its architectural heritage, local history, human resources and natural environment.

Special thanks to the fourth grade teachers in the Moriah and Westport Central School Districts for their assistance in refining the program over the years. Special thanks also to Bob Hammerslag, former Executive Director of ECHO; and Margaret Gibbs, Director of the Essex County Historical Society. Thank you to Elaine McGoldrick of Bluespot Studio, Wadhams, NY for designing the educational notebook and the three-dimensional learning tools that accompany this program.

Elizabethtown, N.Y.
2006

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My Home



Photo courtesy of the Adirondack History Center Museum / Essex County Historical Society

My Home

Write a composition describing your home. Each paragraph must contain at least four sentences. Follow these guidelines:

Paragraph #1:

Tell us where your home is located in the community.
Describe your neighborhood or the surrounding area.

Paragraph #2:

Tell us when your home was built.
Describe what your home looks like. Include a description of the materials used in the construction of your home. Add as many details as you can to help us see your home.

Paragraph #3:

Describe your property and any special features such as a stream, a view, or a fence.

Paragraph #4:

Tell us how long your family has lived in your home.
Tell us who lives in your home and something interesting about each one of them.

Paragraph #5:

Write at least four sentences that describe how your home would describe its life if it could speak. Begin with the words, "If my home could speak it would say . . ." and take it from there. Remember, this must be a paragraph, not a single sentence. Have fun!!

My Home's Façade

A building's face is called its façade and it tells us a lot about a home's personality. During the next few weeks you will be making a detailed drawing of your home's façade. In order to complete this project you must first collect some information.

Stand in front of your house with a drawing pad and a pencil. Make a detailed sketch (rough drawing) of what you see. Include notes about colors and building materials. Be certain to sketch the landscape, as well. Include a horizon line. You will refer to your sketch in order to complete your classroom drawing, so do a thorough job. Look at the picture below to see an example of a final classroom drawing.



Drawing: Peter McGoldrick

My Neighborhood

Photo courtesy of the Adirondack History Center Museum / Essex County Historical Society



Your home is part of a neighborhood, an area in your community that has certain distinct features. Your neighborhood may be large or small. It may have busy streets or open fields. It may have many houses or just a few. All neighborhoods are unique. Yet they all have this in common: they are familiar and they feel like home to the people who live in them.

Here is a 3 part project that will help you get to know your neighborhood.

1. Draw a map of your neighborhood.
2. Take six photographs:
 - 4 photos of your neighborhood
 - 1 photo of your family and home
 - 1 photo of an old building
3. Describe your photos using the form in this booklet.

My Neighborhood 1

Draw a map of your neighborhood, below. Include as many details as possible (buildings, open spaces, streams, streets, signs, etc.).



My Neighborhood 2

Six Photographs

- 4 photos of your neighborhood
- 1 photo of your family and home
- 1 photo of an old building

Take four photographs of your neighborhood. Look for areas or special features that tell us something about the personality of your neighborhood (a street, a row of homes, a store, a stream, or a view).

Take one photo of your family in front of your home (furry ones too!). Make sure there are no parked cars blocking the view. Remember, just one picture with everyone in it.

Take one photo of an old building. Search for an old building (more than 75 years old) in your neighborhood that you find interesting. You may find a house, a barn, a store or a church that you want to photograph. Make sure there is nothing blocking your view. Fill the viewfinder with the image of the building.



Photo courtesy of the Adirondack History Center Museum / ECHS

My Neighborhood 3

Write a brief description (one or two sentences) about each photo. What are we looking at? If there are people in your photo identify them.

Frame # ___ (neighborhood) _____

Frame # ___ (neighborhood) _____

Frame # ___ (neighborhood) _____

Frame # ___ (neighborhood) _____

Frame # ___ (your family and home) _____

Now, answer the following questions about the old building you photographed:

1. What kind of a building is this (store, church, house, etc.) and where is it located? _____

2. How old is this building? _____

3. What shapes and materials were used in its construction? _____

4. If this building could speak it would say _____

My School



Photo courtesy of the Adirondack History Center Museum / Essex County Historical Society

An Architectural Survey

1. My school was built in _____

2. This is the reason my school was built: _____

3. My school was designed by _____
(Name of architect)

4. My school has _____ stories.

5. The materials used to construct my school include: _____

6. My school has:

_____ rooms on the first floor.

_____ rooms on the second floor.

_____ rooms in the basement.

_____ lockers.

_____ exits.

7. My school has _____ classrooms.

8. Some of the things that decorate the hallways are: _____

9. _____ students attend my school. We have _____ teachers.

10. Students who attend my school come from the following towns: _____

11. The reason my school was built on this location is: _____

12. Before the school was here this property was owned by _____

13. This site: _____ was a vacant lot.

_____ had a commercial building on it.

_____ had a home on it.

Provide some details: _____

14. Where did kids go to school before this school was built? _____

15. Something I like about this building: _____

16. Something I would like to change about this building: _____

17. What do you think might be here in 100 years? _____

18. If this school could speak what would it say? _____

School Life in the Past

Photo courtesy of the Adirondack History Center Museum / Essex County Historical Society



As Told By:

(Name of the person interviewed)

As Recorded By:

(Your name)

(Date)

Find a relative, neighbor or friend who attended fourth grade at least 50 years ago. Interview them to find out what school life was like then.

1. Name _____

2. Address _____

3. School Attended/Location _____

4. Attended from _____ to _____

5. Approximate number of students _____

6. Approximate number of teachers _____

7. Approximate number of classrooms _____

8. Describe the school building: _____

9. How far away from school did you live? _____

10. How did you get to school? _____

11. What did you do for lunch? (school lunch, brought it from home, etc.): _____

12. School started at _____ a.m. and ended at _____ p.m.

13. What kinds of school supplies did you have? _____

Interview, continued

14. What did you do at recess? _____

15. Did you have special events like a school play? What were they? _____

16. What were your favorite pastimes? _____

17. What songs, books, movies were popular? _____

18. Did you have school dances? _____

19. What kinds of dances were popular then? _____

20. Who was your best friend? _____

21. What kind of clothes did you wear to school? _____

22. What happened when kids got into trouble in school? _____

23. What was your teacher's name? What do you remember about her? _____

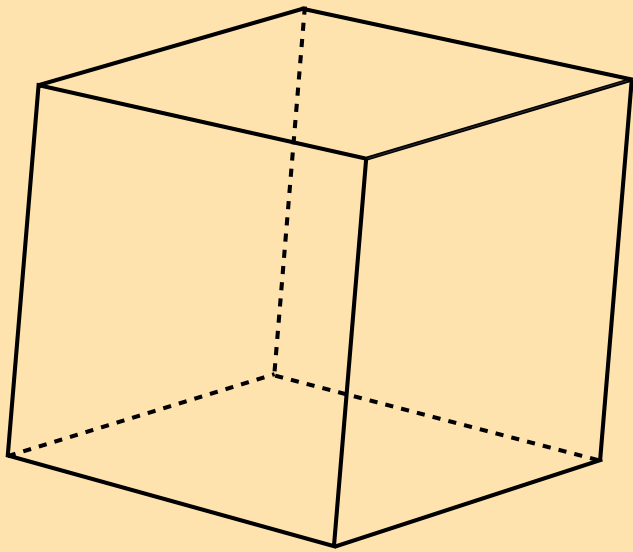
Tools of the Trade: Three-Dimensional Shapes

Photo courtesy of the Adirondack History Center Museum / Essex County Historical Society



An architect uses three-dimensional shapes to design buildings. The most commonly found shapes are the cube, rectangular prism, sphere, cylinder, cone, dome, pyramid and arch. You can also see these shapes in ordinary objects.

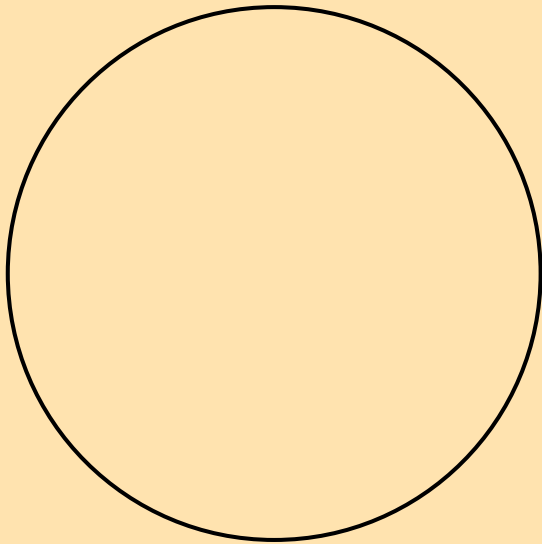
Walk around the classroom and look for examples of these shapes. Try to find two objects for each shape. Record your findings on the following pages.



Cube

1. _____

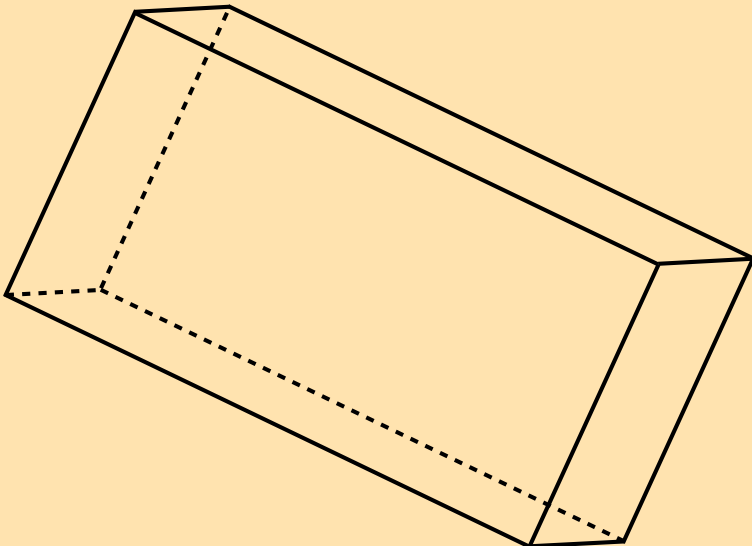
2. _____



Sphere

1. _____

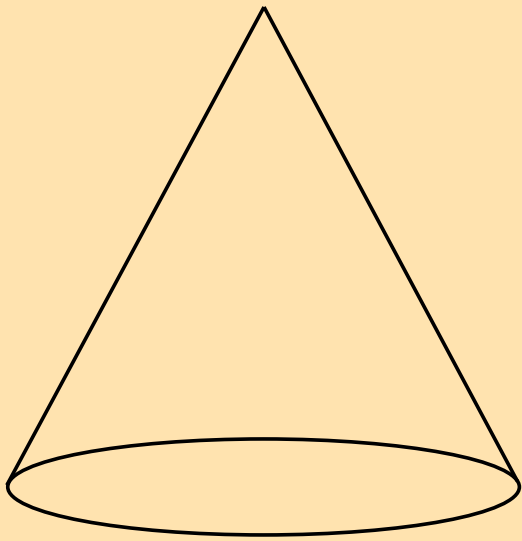
2. _____



Rectangular Prism

1. _____

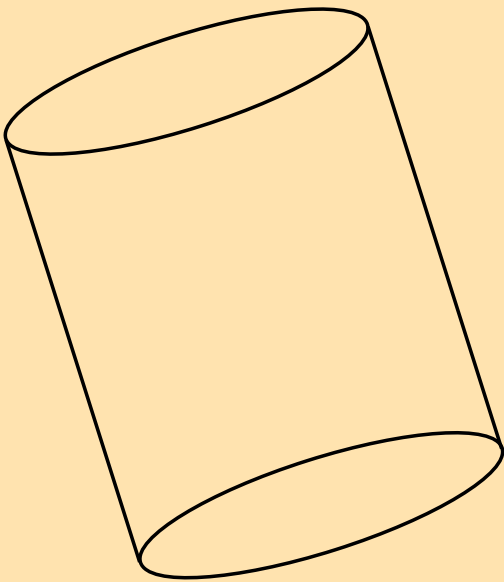
2. _____



Cone

1. _____

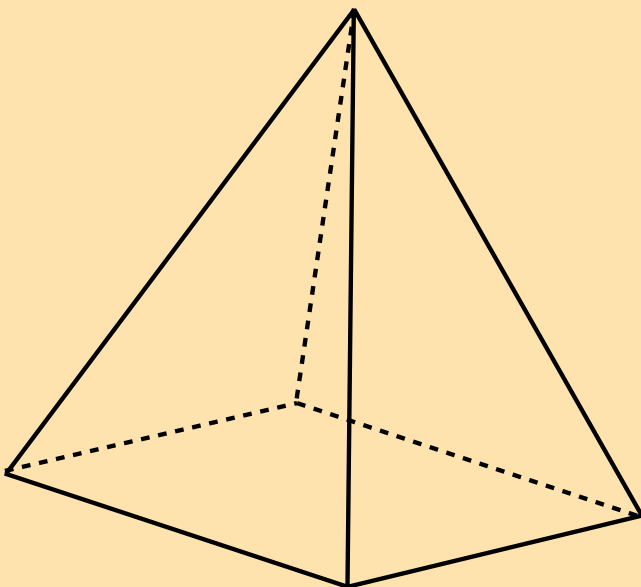
2. _____



Cylinder

1. _____

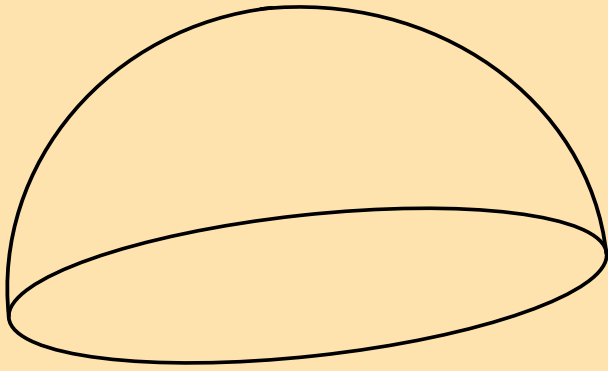
2. _____



Pyramid

1. _____

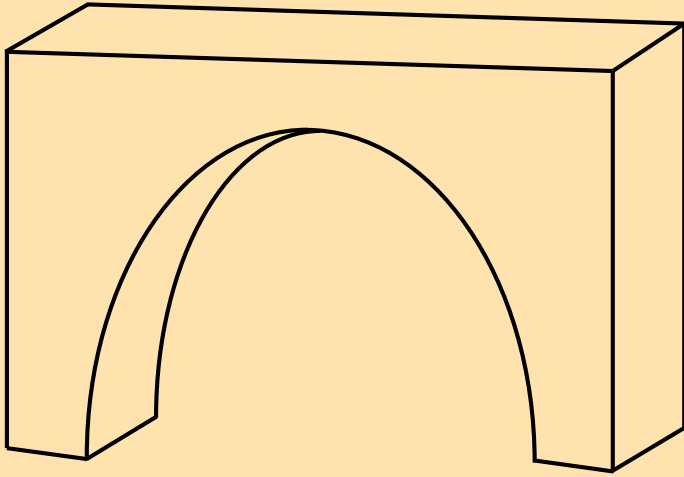
2. _____



Dome (Hemisphere)

1. _____

2. _____



Arch

1. _____

2. _____

Architectural Details Key



Photo courtesy of the Adirondack History Center Museum / Essex County Historical Society

Doors



Modified Fanlight with Sidelights



Six-Eight Panel



Rectangular Transom



Plank

Roofs



Gable



Flat



Gambrel



Mansard



Saltbox



Shed

Windows



Bay



Dormer



Double Hung Sash



Lancet



Arched



Palladian

Other Architectural Details



Pediment & Columns



Quoins



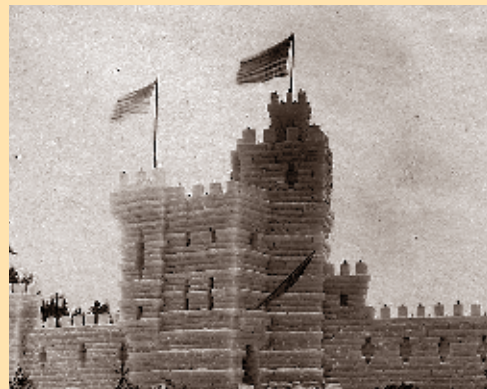
Cupola



Keystones



Arches



Towers