

Sky City Cultural Center and the Architecture of Acoma Pueblo

LESSON PLAN : 1 of 5: Sky City Cultural Center + Acoma Architecture

Common Core Standard(s) Addressed:

CC.6.R.I.7	Integration of Knowledge and Ideas: Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.
CC.6.W.1.b	Text Types and Purposes: Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
CC.6.W.2	Text Types and Purposes: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
CC.6.W.7	Research to Build and Present Knowledge: Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.
CC.6.W.9	Research to Build and Present Knowledge: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
CC.6-8.R.ST.2	Key Ideas and Details: Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; provide an accurate summary of the text distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
CC.6-8.R.H.3	Key Ideas and Details: Identify key steps in a text's description of a process related to history/social studies (e.g., how a bill becomes law, how interest rates are raised or lowered).

Learning Target(s):

Students will be able to:

- Investigate, discover, and describe the influence of history, geography, and craft/architecture on communities and cultures.
- Investigate, discover, and describe Pueblo culture and architecture.
- Investigate, discover, and describe aspects of sustainable design.
- Investigate, discover, and describe the essential building elements of any New Mexican architecture.
- Locate and map Acoma Pueblo and other pueblos.
- Demonstrate comprehension of economic and cultural sustainability as well as architectural sustainability.

Assessment:

Students will research and produce reports on pueblo culture, sustainability, and how those topics relate to their own communities.

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Instructional Plan:

1. Watch the online video Emergence: Sky City Cultural Center.
2. Review the pages on the website Sky City Cultural Center and the Architecture of Acoma Pueblo.
3. Answer the questions for each learning module (5 in this series).
4. Research and produce a report on any New Mexican Pueblo's culture, to include: history, geography, cultural information, craft traditions, architecture, and a map of the pueblo's location in the state of New Mexico.
5. Research and produce a report on favorite aspects of sustainable design introduced in this series. Explain how you might use it today in your own community.

Resources/Materials:

- Online Video: "Sky City Cultural Center + the Architecture of Acoma Pueblo"
- Website Text
- Bibliography

Reading Comprehension Questions:

- What are the six essential elements of Acoma's architecture?
- How many stories are Acoma houses? What is each story usually constructed of? What purpose is each level used for?
- How were the building materials brought up to the mesa?
- What purposes do the terraces on the buildings serve?
- What direction does the village face? Why? What purposes does that serve?
- Which building materials are often reused at Acoma?
- Why were the old types of windows very small?
- What is the purpose of the ladders around the village? Which direction do they face? Why are the ends of the ladders that reach into the sky so long? What does the carved bar that goes across the top of some ladders represent?
- Why did there not used to be doors or windows on the first floors? When did that change and why?
- What is the problem with using modern materials on ancient buildings like these?
- Why was stone used first, and then adobe?
- What is mud used for at Acoma?
- What is clay used for at Acoma?
- What is wood used for at Acoma?
- What makes mica special as a building material?
- Why is corn important to the Acoma people?
- What differentiates Acoma's T-shaped doors from Chaco's t-shaped doors?
- How old is the door on Acoma's mission church? What makes it unique?
- How are Acoma's kivas different than those in the eastern Pueblos?
- How many colors were used to decorate the cultural center? Where did those colors come from?
- What do the triangle patterns all over the building represent?

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- What Acoma craft do the carved patterns on the wood doors represent?

YOUR WORLD

- What are the important elements of design in your community? Your home? Are they the same as Acoma's? Different? How?
- How long do you think an adobe building can last? Why?