



Lesson 5: What kind of house do I live in?

This lesson explores a variety of features on the facade of a house. Students also examine a range of house types found in Ireland.

Support material: Information Sheet 4 “House Facades”, Information Sheet 5 “Irish Houses”, Information Sheet 6 “Doors and Windows”, Information Sheet 7 “Roofs”, Worksheet A3.



Spotlight

Facades

The front of a house or other building is called the **facade**. It is also called the **front elevation**. Depending on the direction in which it faces (**aspect**), it can also be described as the north/south/east /west elevation.



Key Concepts

Features. Functions.

Review of work

Ask volunteers to show their ground floor drawings to the class as the basis for discussion and comparison. Examine the plans to confirm that the correct architectural symbols have been used.

Brainstorming

Ask the students to think about the range of features they might see on the facade of a house. Think about walls, roofs, details . . . List the features the class comes up with on the blackboard. The following list may be used to elicit responses.

aerial	gutter	railing
balcony	house number	rainwater pipe
chimney	letterbox	shutter
door	ornament	skylight
doorbell	patterns (brickwork,	steps
door knocker	stonework, paint)	window
Rainwater pipe	porch	window sill

Distribute copies of Information Sheet 4 “House Facade”. Discuss the facade of this imaginary house. What features did the class mention in their discussion? Which ones did they miss? Are there features they did not have a name for? Discuss the functions of different features.

Discussion

Distribute copies of: Information Sheet 5 “Irish Houses”, Information Sheet 6 “Doors and Windows” and Information Sheet 7 “Roofs”. Discuss these, using questions such as the following to encourage responses.



- Which house types are most like the ones in the school's neighbourhood?
- Where would you expect to see the different kinds of houses?
- Which are old houses? Which are modern? How can you tell?
- Which roof types do you see most often? Are there any which you have never seen on a house before?
- Which kinds of doors and windows would you expect to find in an old house? A modern house? Why?
- Which kind(s) of door(s) and window(s) are most like the ones in your own house?



Activity — Drawing facades

Each student makes a careful **memory drawing** of the front facade of his or her own home, including as many features as he/she can remember. Think about size and proportion of doors and windows, gutters and rainwater pipes, colour and pattern, any ornamental details.

Materials: pencil, eraser, sharpener, coloured pencils

Homework

1. Instruct students to look at the facades of their houses when they go home and make any necessary alterations to their memory drawings.
2. Distribute copies of Worksheet A3. Discuss the choice of assignments and their requirements.
3. Students check the **Scrapbook** requirements and update their **Vocabulary Files**.

Cross-Curricular Connections

1. Technical Drawing — Make scale drawings of the front, back and side elevations of the building you live in. Do any students have houses which don't have side elevations? Why? Try to show the colours, finishes and textures of the elevations.
2. Photography/Leisure Studies — Tell the story of your home through photographs. Process and print your photographs in the school darkroom. Add the photographs to your scrapbook. Write a few lines about each photograph.
3. Model-making — With the information in "Model-making Guidelines", make a 3-dimensional model of the front facade of the building you live in. Use card, clay or plasticine.
4. Art, Craft, Design — Make a detailed drawing of the facade of your home or of a prominent feature on the facade. Translate this drawing into one of the following crafts: lino print, clay tile, pottery, embroidery or screen print.
5. Art — Visit an art gallery and explore the theme of "Buildings in Paintings".
6. Art — Make a painting of the front elevation of your home. Include the garden or yard area, if you wish.
7. Art History — Research the work of Claude Monet or any other artist who painted buildings and urban landscapes. (a) Write a report on the life and work of the artist. (b) Explore the artist's approach and painting techniques.



MY HOME

8. *Media Studies* — In many TV series or soaps the camera “zooms in” on the facade of a house/building before the beginning of a scene. Why is this done? What is the purpose of these images? Try making a video collage of images like these and showing them to your class as a Crazy Quiz!
9. *Design/Construction Studies/Geography* — Investigate windows and doors in different parts of the world in relation to climate. Collect photos or make drawings of the types you have discovered. Give each picture a descriptive label.