

eva
ELEMENTARY VISUAL ARTS
Park City Education Foundation • Kimball Art Center

LESSON
4

Antoni Gaudi

Architecture

Verbal Directions

LESSON OVERVIEW

Antoni Gaudí (1852 - 1926) was a Spanish architect born in Barcelona, Spain, with a unique vision. Students will build their own three-dimensional masterpieces using air dry clay in the celebrated architectural style of Antoni Gaudí and learn about the history and work of Gaudí. His style is whimsical and organic, classified as Art Nouveau and combines many styles and shapes.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Learn about Antoni Gaudí.
- Observe a variety of architectural styles.
- Create artwork that is three-dimensional.
- Reflect on how artists are inspired.
- Combine mixed media in a work of art.

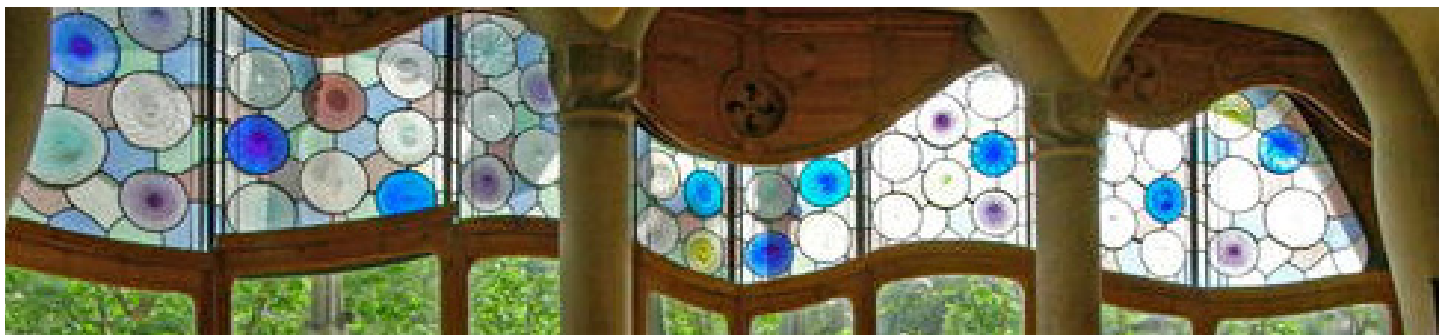
SUPPLIES

- Images of Gaudí's architectural projects
- Paint brushes and watercolors
- Cardboard for the base
- Air dry clay
- Plastic gemstones, aquarium gravel, pebbles, tiles or other decorative craft items.
- Scissors
- Varied colors of construction paper
- Recycled materials

ANTONI GAUDI



Antoni Gaudí (1852 - 1926) was a Spanish architect born in Barcelona, Spain who had a unique vision. As a child Gaudí helped his father forge boilers and cauldrons in the family foundry. This is where Gaudí's fascination with building began. An illness in his youth prevented him from playing with other kids, so he spent many hours looking out of the window observing and drawing animals and plants. His first design used traditional Gothic architecture, but his style eventually became more whimsical and organic, influenced by his love of nature. In the nave in the Sagrada Família, nature is seen in the pillars looking like the form of a tree. Gaudí became the architect for Guell, a local entrepreneur and patron and the two collaborated on famous projects. Gaudí's style was different from that of the other architects of his time, he used curves and bright tile mosaics. [Learn More.](#)



LESSON PLAN

1. Introduce students to the life and work of Antoni Gaudi and highlight significant historical events, and architectural styles to provide a context for his work. Then show students images of Gaudi's architecture. Point out the elements that make his vision unique and compare his work to other buildings of the time. Ask students:

- What makes Gaudi's work different or interesting? (show students traditional Gothic designs)
- What kinds of feelings does the architecture bring up and why? Does it remind you of anything?

2. Discuss color, shapes, form, etc. Art Nouveau is a style of decorative art, architecture, and design prominent in Western Europe and the US from about 1890 until World War I and is characterized by complex linear designs and flowing curves based on natural forms such as flowers and leaves. Ask students:

- How is an architect an artist?
- What kind of structure would you design?

3. Tell students that they will have the opportunity to create their own structure in the style of Gaudi. Students will use recycled materials and/or air-dry clay provided to create their own imaginary construction. Start with a quick sketch on scratch paper to brainstorm ideas inspired by Gaudi's style.

4. Pass out air dry clay and clay tools to students. On a cardboard base, student can start by creating a simple tower inspired by natural elements and with interesting curves. Encourage students to pinch, twist and carve into the clay to create more elaborate designs in the Art Nouveau style. Students can use toothpick, dowel rods or wooden skewers as an armature to strengthen the structure of the piece. Talk about how to create stability in their sculpture. Pass out additional small pieces of air dry clay and encourage students to add details first with the clay and then with plastic gemstones, aquarium gravel, pebbles, tiles, or other decorative craft items to create a mosaic effect. These pieces can be glued to the surface and pressed into the clay.

5. To finish, students can also add color by applying watercolor paint with a paint brush.

EVA +: To continue this lesson, take a closer look at the stained-glass windows of the Sagrada Familia. Quickly share the history of stained glass and then discuss the colors, shapes and construction of Gaudi's innovative and technically advanced designs. Students can create their own stained glass 'window' using colorful transparent paper, black construction paper, glue or contact paper.



**KEY IDEAS THAT CONNECT TO NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS:**

Based on Utah Core Arts Standards Visual Arts Requirements (Grade 1).

Strand: CREATE (1.V.CR.)

Standard 1.V.CR.2:

Explore the use of materials and tools to create works of art or design; use art materials, tools, and equipment in a safe way; and identify and classify uses of everyday objects through drawings, diagrams, sculptures, or other visual means.

Standard 1.V.CR.3:

Use art vocabulary to describe choices while creating art.

Strand: CONNECT (1.V.CO.)

Standard 1.V.CO.2:

Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding that people from different times and places have made art for a variety of reasons

**ADDITIONAL REFERENCES**

Click on links to learn more.

- <https://www.casabatllo.es/en/antoni-gaudi/>
- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Antoni-Gaudi>
- <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/320/gallery/&index=37&maxrows=12>

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