

Three Columns (art + history)

The architectural style developed by the ancient Greeks has had such an influence on world civilization that it surrounds us still today — in what we now call Greek Revival architecture. In most cities and communities this style can be found in memorials, government buildings, churches and even contemporary homes.

This lesson plan introduces the three orders of Greek columns — the Doric, Ionic and Corinthian:

Doric Columns: The most simple of the columns is also the oldest style. These columns were built approximately 400 B.C. The Doric column does not have a base, but its grooved, thick, vertical shape rests directly on the floor of the building. A thin, round piece on the top of the column is called a capitol, and is located between the pillar and the roof of the building. These columns were originally made of wood. Perhaps the most famous example of Doric Columns is on the Parthenon in Athens.

Ionic: Ionic columns were constructed of stone and provided more stability and strength for buildings built between 400 and 300 B.C. They were taller, thinner and more graceful than the Doric columns, and the top featured a scroll on each of its four corners as decoration. They also had flutes, which are lines carved into them from top to bottom. Ionic columns decorate the main portico of the White House.

Corinthian: The Corinthian column is the most decorative of the three styles. The top of its column is always embellished and adorned with flowers, leaves and even fruit. Both the Ionic and Corinthian columns have bases on the building's floor.

This lesson plan is written to reinforce the names of the columns and create awareness of their use in the architecture of today..

Grade Levels 6-12

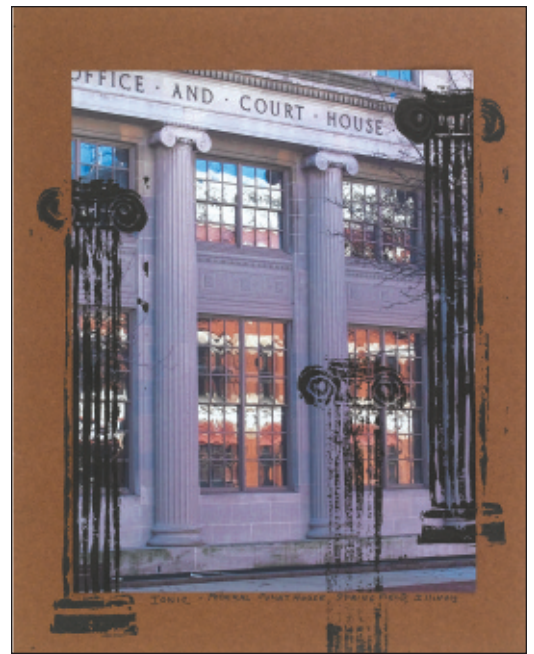
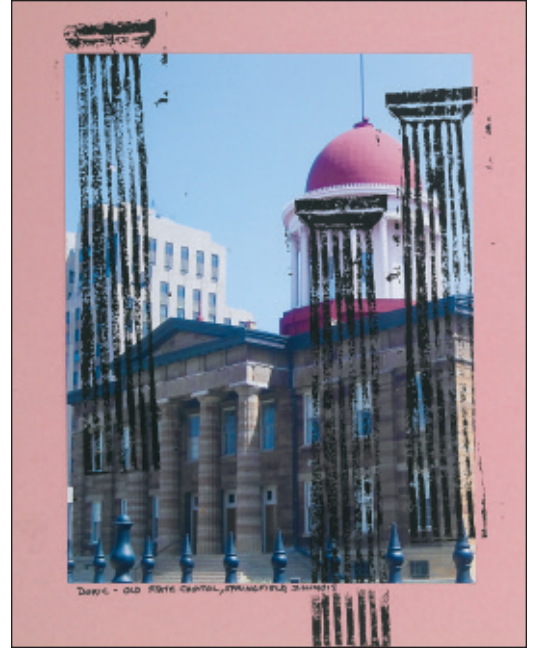
Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

1. Gather several photographs of each column style, indoors and outdoors. Use examples in the surrounding community and famous buildings, then have students study them, identify them and discuss why an architect chose to use them.

Preparation

1. Measure and mark 1-1/2" increments across both 12" sides of Wonder-Cut linoleum. Connect to make eight strips on each linoleum piece, size 1-1/2" wide x 9" long. a paper cutter. Each student receives three strips, one for each column. NOTE: To cut Wonder-Cut, first hold a metal ruler firmly on the pencil lines and score the surface with a



Materials

Blick® Economy Graphite Pencils, box of 12 (20302-2009); need one pencil per student

Blick® Aluminum Ruler, 18", (55430-1018); need one per student

Blick® Wonder-Cut Linoleum, 9" x 12" package of 6 (40417-1003); share one piece among three students

Speedball® Linoleum Cutters, set with five cutters and one handle (40203-1009); share six sets across classroom

Speedball® Linoleum Cutter Handle, (40201-0000); need eight to share across classroom

Speedball® Soft Rubber Brayer, 4" (40104-1004); share two

Blick® Water-Soluble Block Printing Ink, 5-oz White (40305-1007) and Black (40305-2007); share three of each color across classroom

Plastic Inking Plate, 8" x 10" (18973-1005); share two

Tombow® Monoadhesive, permanent (23827-0400); share three across classroom

Railroad Board, 11" x 14", 6-ply (13105-0659); share two 50-sheet assortments across classroom

Alvin® Utility Knife (57459-0000); need one and **Spare Blades**, one package of five (57459-1000)

Yasutomo® Bamboo Baron (40120-1001); share three across classroom

Inkpress Inkjet Paper, Matte 60, 8-1/2" x 11" (12541-1085); share two 50-sheet packages across classroom

Digital Camera

Computer and Inkjet Printer

utility knife. Snap the Wonder-Cut along the score lines a strip at a time to make a complete break. Cut through the burlap backing using scissors or a paper cutter to make the cut complete.

2. Draw each style column on the strip using the entire length of the strip.

3. Use a linoleum cutter to cut away the negative space. Leave only the column shape. Cut in the details for each column style.

SAFETY NOTE: Always place the hand holding the Wonder-Cut behind the cutting hand. For the safest cutting, use a Wooden Bench Hook (42906-1002): place one end of the bench hook over the edge of a table. Cut the linoleum with it held securely in place on the top edge of the bench hook.

4. Give each student three 8" x 10" photos of buildings that incorporate examples of the three column styles. These may be photocopies, ink-jet or laserprints in black and white or color. Apply adhesive to the back side, center on 11" x 14" piece of railroad board and burnish in place using brayer or fingers.

5. Squeeze a dime-size drop of block printing ink onto the plastic inking plate. Roll the brayer through the ink in multiple directions until the surface of the brayer is coated evenly with ink. Place the linoleum face-up on a piece of newsprint to catch over-rolls and roll an even application of ink on the surface.

6. Pick the linoleum up carefully, holding it by the edges and place it ink-side down on the photograph that corresponds with the column style. Place in the exact position the image will print and apply firm, even pressure without repositioning. Pick the linoleum up and move to another area on the photograph to print. The second print will be lighter, known as a "ghost" print. Repeat for a third printed column.

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National Standards

Content Standard # 1 – Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

Content Standard # 2 – Using knowledge of structures and functions

Content Standard # 3 – Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas

Content Standard # 4 – Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures

Content Standard # 5 – Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others

Content Standard # 6 – Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines