



Constructions Lessons

Books

General

Architects Make Zigzags: Looking at Architecture from A to Z

By Roxie Munro. (1986, National Trust for Historic Preservation)

An alphabet book with drawings and definitions of a combination of familiar and unfamiliar architectural terms. This is a good book to share with children in small snippets, as well as for children to peruse independently.

The Block Book

Edited by Elisabeth S. Hirsch. (1984, National Association for the Education of Young Children)

This book for teachers is a compilation of essays that explore the values and uses of unit blocks for extending children's growth and development in multiple areas, including science, mathematics, and art.

Bridges (A True Book)

By Elaine Landau. (2001, Grolier)

Clear text and beautiful photographs give information about the three main types of bridges: beam, arch and suspension bridges. This book would be useful in the "Bridges" activity to introduce and illustrate these three types of bridges.

Building a House

By Byron Barton. (1990, Scott Foresman)

Clear and simple text combines with informative pictures to illustrate and explain the steps involved in building a house. This book is used in the "Building a House" activity as the primary resource for collaborating on a timeline or book that shows how a house is built. The text is simple enough that some beginning readers may be able to read it independently.



The Busy Building Book

By Sue Tarsky; illustrated by Alex Ayliffe. (1997, Puffin Books)

Concise text and detailed, labeled pictures combine to show what happens on the construction site for a new office building. In addition to describing the order of events, the book introduces a variety of construction equipment and personnel. This book is good for reading aloud, as well as independent perusal of the detailed pictures.

Eyewitness: Building

By Philip Wilkinson; photographs by Dave King and Geoff Dann. (1995, Dorling Kindersley)

This book covers a variety of topics, including building materials, architectural planning, and design elements. Buildings discussed and depicted range from mud huts to elaborate skyscrapers. It is a good reference book for the unit, with numerous photos and captions to share with interested children.

Houses and Homes (Around the World)

By Ann Morris; photographs by Ken Heyman. (1995, Mulberry Books)

Striking photographs and sparse, well-chosen text show a variety of houses from around the world. Reading this book aloud will spark discussion about geographic differences in housing, as well as what makes a house a home.

How a House is Built

By Gail Gibbons. (1996, Holiday House)

With informative text and clear pictures, this book describes, step by step, how the surveyor, heavy machinery operators, carpentry crew, plumbers, and other workers build a house. Good for reading aloud and independent perusal of the pictures.

I Wonder Why Tunnels Are Round and Other Questions About Building (I Wonder Why)

By Steve Parker. (1995, Kingfisher)

This book uses a question and answer format to answer a range of questions about building. This book is a good reference book, as well as a good discussion starter.



Up Goes the Skyscraper!

By Gail Gibbons. (1986, Four Winds Press)

A simple and clear exposition of how a skyscraper is constructed. Children will enjoy poring over this colorful book with its excellent illustrations of the step-by-step process of building a skyscraper.

Machines

Big Machines at Work (Machines at Work)

By Jean Eick. (1998, The Child's World)

This series, which has excellent illustrations and photographs, includes bulldozers, concrete mixers, diggers, dump trucks, fork lifts, and excavators. Simple explanations make this a series to share with children as well as for children to enjoy on their own.

Construction Zone

By Tana Hoban. (1998, Green Willow)

This is another of Hoban's wonderfully simple expositions with beautiful photographs of machines and clear presentation.

Simple Machines (Starting with Science)

By Deborah Hodge; photographs by Ray Boudreau. (1998, Kids Can Press)

This book uses thirteen hands-on activities to illustrate and explain six simple machines (lever, wheel and axle, pulley, inclined plane, screw, and wedge) and how they make work easier. Also includes additional background information for adults. This book will be a useful resource if your class becomes particularly interested in the "Levers" or "Pulleys" activities.

The Young Scientist Concepts and Projects: Machines

By Chris Oxlade. (1998, Garth Stevens Publishing)

Lots of pictures and ideas, though some of them may be rather advanced for some kindergartners.



Videos

I Dig Dirt

(1995, Dreams Come True Productions)

Mighty Construction Machines

(1995, Victory Multimedia)

Mighty Machines at the Construction Site

(2002, Anchor Bay Entertainment)

There Goes a Bulldozer

(2003, A Vision Studio)