

Virtual Tour



Frank Lloyd Wright designed more than 1,000 buildings, homes, bridges, and other structures in his lifetime and nearly 500 of his designs were built. Wright worked in a self-defined style called organic architecture, which we understand as designing in harmony with the environment and the purpose of the structure. At Taliesin West, you will experience Wright’s desert laboratory, a place where he and his apprentices experimented with sustainable materials and building methods that mirror the natural environment, and structures that serve a variety of purposes—office, home, school, and entertainment—for community life. Frank Lloyd Wright always wanted you to experience, see, hear, and feel the structures he and his students built.

Virtual Tour

We invite you and your students to take a virtual tour of the property by visiting FrankLloydWright.org/3DLab. For the virtual tour, please split your class into small groups.

Please visit the following rooms on the virtual tour:

- The Entrance
- The Entrance Courtyard
- The Reflection Pool
- The First Living Area
- Garden

Scroll around each virtual room using the cursor to see other angles of the rooms. Please align your tour with the appropriate grade section listed. After you visit each room, please discuss the questions provided.

PATTERNS

GRADES K-4

Content standard focuses on observing patterns and shapes to guide organization and classification.

Patterns exist everywhere—in regularly occurring shapes or structures and in repeating events and relationships. Shapes and patterns can be found throughout the architecture at Taliesin West and in the desert. Have your students explore and discuss in groups some of the following questions as you visit each virtual space about observing patterns, shapes, and other ideas.

- What geometric shapes do you see in most of the rooms?
- What material is making the shape? Wood, metal, rocks, shadow, etc.?
- Did you find the same shapes in both the spaces and in the desert? Why or why not?
- Do you see any patterns from shadows in the spaces you visited?
- Do you think Frank Lloyd Wright builds his homes keeping nature in mind?
- What do you think you will hear, smell, and feel when you visit these buildings and spaces in person?
- How are these buildings different than other homes or buildings you have been in before?

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STRUCTURES

GRADES 5–8

Content standard focuses on understanding that the way an object is shaped or structured determines many of its properties and functions.

Structures can be designed to serve functions by considering properties of different materials, and how materials can be shaped and used. Have students explore and discuss in their groups some of the following questions as you visit each virtual space about the form and function of each room.

- What did Wright do to bring natural light from the sun into a room?
- What do you think the function of the living area is?
- The buildings seem to be made of rocks, plants, or trees. How does this fit into form and function?
- What purpose do you think Wright had in mind when he built the pool?
- Discuss other questions you may have regarding how Wright and his apprentices built Taliesin West.
- What do you think you will hear, smell, and feel when you visit these buildings and spaces in person?
- How are these buildings different than other homes or buildings you have been in before?

INNOVATIONS

GRADES 9–12

Content standard focuses on developing the ability to design a solution to a problem, to understand the relationship between science and technology, and the ways people are involved in both.

Frank Lloyd Wright was an innovator and changed how we build and live; many of his innovations can be seen throughout Taliesin West.

- Look at the size of the rocks that make up the desert masonry walls around the property. Why do you think some are larger than others, and what does that tell us about the history of Taliesin West?
- Wright was innovative through his use of materials. Why do you think he chose these materials to build Taliesin West? What challenges do you think he had when using these materials?
- What innovative ideas do you see in the buildings that are relevant to today's homes and cities?
- How was his use of lighting innovative for the time?
- What do you think you will hear, smell, and feel when you visit these buildings and spaces in person?
- How are these buildings different than other homes or buildings you have been in before?