

WRIGHT, FRANK LLOYD *Falling Water*



Primary Focus: Architecture

Secondary Focus: Inspiration

Wright took inspiration for his designs from his natural surroundings. The midwest and its geography are echoed in his work.

Every architect gets their inspiration from somewhere. Many draw upon past designs and make them better. But others, like Wright, have completely original ideas that secure their place in history as pioneers of a new school of thought.

Discuss the Prairie Style of Architecture. How does this tie into the geography of the Midwest? Discuss the qualities that make a 'prairie' type of house.

Students are studying points of interest in Illinois so Wright's studio and home in Oak Park should be discussed as well as the Robie House in Hyde Park. They are on the National Preservation List.

In Architecture the style of a building also must be functional since people will dwell in the completed design. Sometimes a design does not function well. For example, discuss how the flat roofs found in the Prairie style homes might have challenges for the owners.

Remember to use the Black Binder in the bottom of the file cabinet as it contains other images of Wright's work.

Some questions to pose:

- Do you think it took courage to break from tradition and create a new style of design? Why?
- How do you think it would feel to live in the Falling Water home?
- What part of the prairie landscape is reflected in Wright's homes?
- What would you create if you could design a home? What style would inspire you?
- What style of architecture is the facade of Ben Franklin School?