Bodies and Buildings

How can my body be compared to a building?

Theme

This lesson explores how some body parts work in similar ways to the parts of a building.

Student Objectives

- identify five parts of a building that correspond to five parts of a body
- identify five parts of a body that correspond to five parts of a building
- cut out, sort, and match the picture of a building part to the corresponding human body part

Activities

- match building parts to body parts
- · cut out building parts and glue them onto a body outline
- game of charades
- action song about buildings and body parts (included)

Type

indoor, desktop activities

Timeframe

two class sessions of 20 minutes each

Materials

- Handout A pictures of 5 body parts and 5 building parts
- Handout B body outline
- crayons
- scissors
- glue

Teacher Prep

- photocopy **Handout** A (two per student)
- photocopy **Handout B** (one per student)
- optional charades game: photocopy Handout A onto cardstock and cut out the body pictures



Vocabulary

door

mouth

window

eyes and ears

columns and beams

bones

walls

skin

heater

lungs and nose



Discussion Points

- Are you alive? How do you know?
- Is a building alive? How do you know?
- Which features of a building help to hold it up? (columns and beams)
 Which parts of your body hold you up? (bones)
- Which features of a building help to warm up or cool down the air? (heaters and air conditioners) Which parts of your body help you breathe air? (lungs)
- Which features of a building let light and air inside? (windows) Which parts of your body let sound and pictures in? (ears and eyes)

nerves

muscles

intestines, veins

- Which feature of a building lets people and supplies come in and out? (door) Which part of your body lets food come in? (mouth)
- Which features of a building make it look really different from the other buildings around it? (façade) Which part of your body makes you look really different from the person next to you? (face)
- What do you need to survive? (water, food, air, space to move around, and love and care) What does a building need to survive? (care)

Background Information for Teacher

a person	a building
mouth	door
eyes and ears	windows
bones	columns and beams
skin	outside walls
lungs and nose	heating and air conditioning
other options	
a person	a building
façade (pronounced fah-SOD)	face
brain	some big buildings have a computer system to control the electrical, plumbing, and ventilation systems

electricity

nails, screws, bolts, welding, etc. (hold

the columns and beams together)

pipes

Activity Procedures

To be completed over two days

- Name the basic parts of a human body. Talk about the function of each part. Use the Discussion Points to guide your questions.
- Name the basic parts of a building. Talk about the function of each part.
- Give each student a copy of **Handout A**. Have them draw a line that connects each picture of a body part with the similar building part. Talk about the correct answers.
- Give each student another copy of **Handout A** (showing the body and building parts) and one copy of **Handout B** (showing the outline of the human figure). Students should cut out the pictures of the building parts and pictures of the body parts and glue them on the outline of the human figure. They may add other features to the figure as they wish.
- Optional review by a game of charades: Make cards from the five pictures of body parts on **Handout A**. One student comes to the front of the class, chooses a card, and then acts out the card by performing a task that uses that body part. The role of the class is to guess which body part is being acted out and to name the corresponding building part. Example: Student chooses a picture of the eye. They pretend to make spyglasses with their hands. The rest of the class then guesses: window.
- Sing "The Building and Body Song" presented at the end of this lesson with your class. Make up actions to go along with the words.

Extensions

Sing "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes" or play a game of Simon Says to help remind children of the different parts of their bodies.



Interdisciplinary Connection

Fine Arts

Use pieces of drawing paper as large as your children. Have the students lie down on the paper, while you trace around them. Have them decorate their outlines with features from a building.

Resources

The Fantastic Cutaway Book of Giant Buildings, Matthew Heywood and Alex Pang, illust. Brookfield, CT: Copper Beech Books, 1997.

The Magic School Bus: Inside the Human Body, Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen, illust. New York: Scholastic, 1989.

My First Body Book, Christopher Rice and Melanie Rice. New York: Dorling Kindersley, 1995.

Stephen Biesty's Incredible Crosssections, Richard Platt and Stephen Biesty, illust. New York: Knopf, 1992.

Up Goes the Skyscraper!, Gail Gibbons. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1986.

What It Feels Like to be a Building, Forrest Wilson. Washington, DC: The Preservation Press. 1988.



Illinois Learning Standards and Benchmarks

12A Know and apply concepts that explain how living things function, adapt and change.

12.A.1a Identify and describe the component parts of living things and their major functions.

12.A.1b Categorize living organisms using a variety of observable features.

12B Know and apply concepts that describe how living things interact with each other and with their environment.

12.B.1a Describe and compare characteristics of living things in relationships to their environments.

13A Know and apply the accepted practices of science.

13.A.1c Explain how knowledge can be gained by careful observation..

A new song from the Chicago Architecture Foundation using an old favorite melody: (Use and teach verses as needed.)

The Building and Body Song

sung to the tune of: London Bridge is Falling Down

Windows let in light and sound Eyes and ears bring light and sound Windows let in light and sound Eyes and ears bring light and sound to the building to my body

Doors let people in and out My mouth lets the food go in in and out food go in food go in in and out

Doors let people in and out My mouth lets the food go in

of the building to my body

Heaters warm the air right up Nose and lungs warm air right up

air right up air right up air right up air right up

Nose and lungs warm air right up Heaters warm the air right up

in my body to the building

Walls keep snow and rain outside Skin keeps snow and rain outside

rain outside rain outside rain outside rain outside

Walls keep snow and rain outside Skin keeps snow and rain outside

of the building of my body

Columns stand up straight and tall My bones stand up straight and tall

straight and tall straight and tall straight and tall straight and tall

Columns stand up straight and tall My bones stand up straight and tall in the building

in my body





















