

OWL May 2020 Teacher/Parent Resources



OWL

Insider Reach for the Sky

In many cities, land is expensive, space is limited, and the only direction to build is... up. In this month's Insider, OWL looks at the ever-growing world of skyscrapers. Read the article, and then create a word wall, which is a collection of words that provide reference support when you're reading and writing. They can be high-frequency or unfamiliar words.

Work together to unpack the following words:

tube frame	column	bundled tube system	curtain wall/façade
damper	engineer	stabilize	vertices
tier	bowed edge	tripod	deflect

Follow-up Activity

Design a skyscraper from the future. You can draw on pop culture and get inspired through TV, movies, graphic novels, as well as through photos of existing buildings. Try to work in some of the engineering techniques from the OWL feature. Get creative and have fun!

Classroom Connections: Language Arts: reading comprehension, understanding informational text





Maker Space From Spice to Science

Read the interview with Jannah McCallum, paying special attention to the questions. What makes these good questions? Do they lead to other questions? What other things do you want to know about Jannah and her research? Work together to build on the original interview and jot down some follow-up questions.

Features of a good question:

- Starts with who, what, when, where, why, or how
- Is stated clearly
- Examines one idea or concept at a time
- Requires one to think about facts, values, and opinions
- Leads to more questions
- Offers one a chance to think about bias and perspective

Follow-up Activity:

Think about a topic you would like to research for a science fair. It could be an inquiry based on a challenge at home, like Jannah's mouldy carrots, or something else that interests you. How might your investigation have wider implications (such as Jannah's discovery of cinnamon as a natural herbicide)? How would you go about getting started? Write out your plan of investigation.

Classroom Connections: Science: life science, biology, chemistry, environment; Language Arts: reading comprehension, understanding informational text





Weird Zone

Strange and True Stories in the News

This month's Weird Zone is filled with interesting, strange news. Read through each item and then discuss the questions below.

- What is an art installation?
- Where does Paul Stone leave his art and why?
- What is a therapy animal?
- Where is Monaco?

Note: Encourage readers to go beyond the text for more information, and to think critically and consider things like: *What sort of art installation would you create? How do you think people feel when they find a piece of Paul Stone's art? Who might find benefit from a therapy animal? Is the rock home a cool idea or an extravagant one and why?*

Follow-Up Activity

Discuss what makes a good news story. How does the media decide what to report? What makes something newsworthy? What makes each of the stories in this month's Weird Zone interesting and unique?

Classroom Connections:

Language Arts: understanding informational text, reading comprehension
Media Literacy

