

Joseph Pluto  
Commander Willie McCool  
Elementary Middle School  
Santa Rita, Guam

Target Audience: Elementary Grades K-4 Spanish and English

Lesson Title: Architectural Icons of San Antonio, Texas: The Alamo and the Tower of the Americas

Los iconos arquitectónicos de San Antonio: El Alamo y La Torre de las Américas

Theme: Comparison/contrast of architecture

Student learning objectives:

Students will be able to point out San Antonio, Texas on a large map of the United States.

Students will be able to define in their own words: architecture, scale, and icon.

Students will be able to speak and/or write comparison and contrast statements regarding The Alamo and the Tower of the Americas using the following points of comparison: old vs. new, tall vs. short, purpose and use, construction materials.

Activities:

Have students point out Texas, then San Antonio, on a large United States map.

Provide students with scale elevations of the Alamo (façade of the church) and the Tower of the Americas. Explain “scale” and “elevation”.

Have students, in small groups, make lists of comparison/contrast of the two structures. In the discussion of the lists, focus on the concepts of old vs. new, tall vs. short, purpose and use, and construction materials.

Discuss the terms icon and architecture. Have students describe how each structure works to fulfill its purpose and tell them why each is considered an icon of San Antonio today.

Have students build carbohydrate models of each icon using the following materials: white jelly beans, canned icing, marshmallows, and thick dried spaghetti rods. Students will

discuss their selection of materials for building each model. Students will label their models with the name, date, and height of each structure.

Display the students' models.

Timeframe: This lesson will be completed during one week of class time.

Materials: Wall map of the United States

Scale elevations of the Alamo and the Tower of the Americas, side-by-side, on legal paper with a portrait orientation

Paper and pencils for writing.

White or clear jelly beans, white canned icing, thick dry spaghetti rods, large marshmallows, heavy 8.5" x 11" cardboard sheets for model bases

Vocabulary: architecture, scale, icon