

Activity Card #2
ART
Archi-Texture
Grades: K - 8

Architects and artists incorporate different textures into their work. When thinking about Matt Bua's CRIBS, consider the different objects he used, the materials and how they might feel. Would the wooden guitars feel smooth? The bars to the crib rough?

Complete this activity to further explore textures found in the architecture that surrounds you most everyday—your school!

Materials:

- Kidspage Journals
- Peeled Crayons (1 per student)
- Scissors
- Construction Paper
- Glue Sticks

Directions:

1. Choose a place in your classroom that has interesting texture, such as a brick wall or metal radiator grid.
2. Lay a piece of paper on it, and transfer the texture of the surface to the paper by rubbing the side of the crayon over it. Don't use the point of the crayon, only the side.
3. Go on a hunt in your classroom and throughout your school to find as many different kinds of textures as you can. Older students: Write down next to each rubbing, the name of the material, where you found it, and one adjective that describes its texture.
4. Come back together as a class and try to guess the different textures your friends have collected. Are you surprised by how many different textures they found. Why are there so many? Do textures have functions (rugs grip shoes, desks are smooth for writing), or are they purely decorative (wallpaper)? Can they be both (fabric on couches is soft and comfortable, but also beautiful)? Architects must pay careful attention to surface textures, for reasons of function and/or ornament.
5. Older students: Make a grand list on the board of all the different kinds of materials found and the adjectives your friends came up with to describe them. Compare the adjective to the rubbing. Do they match? Do the rubbings that look soft always indicate soft surfaces?
6. Add your rubbings to your Kidspage Journal. You could cut out sections of various rubbings to paste together as a collage, and notice the new (perhaps abstract) patterns you can create. Incorporate your adjectives into your design.
7. Older students: Take this one step further by researching on-line one of the textures you found. For instance, how is carpet made? What materials go into it? where it is produced? What is its history? What function does it serve? What are some typical uses of carpet? Can you find any unusual purposes?

(Derived from Williams College Museum of Art Archpack, 2000)

KIDSPACE