



The Molly Brown House Museum

Create Your Own Walking Tour At Home Activity

Overview:

Architecture can be fun! Getting kids out and exploring the built environment can expose them to new ideas, and potentially even inspire career paths. Encourage kids to explore and really look at the built environment whenever you are out and about, whether it's in your neighborhood, at the park, downtown, or anywhere else!

Introduction:

Have you ever walked around your neighborhood and *really* looked at the buildings around you? How are they similar? How are they different? Do they all look about the same age, or do they look like they were built during different time periods?

Activity:

1. With a grownup, take a walk around your neighborhood (leave the rest of your family at home so you can take them on your finished walk later). As you walk, notice which buildings stand out to you. Make a map of the walk, noting the address and location of buildings you'd like to include on your walking tour. Take a photo or draw a picture of any of the details you want to point out to others on your tour.
2. When you return home, create an outline of your tour. Plot a route that makes the most sense so you aren't having to cross the street a bunch of times or walking past the same buildings several times (if you need help figuring this part out, ask a grownup to help you.)
3. Once you have your route figured out, think about each of the buildings you want to feature. Is there something that ties them together? Do they all have columns? Were they all built around the same time? Are they all purple? Or is your theme that there are all different kinds of buildings in your neighborhood?
4. Next, if you have access to a computer, try to find out about the buildings on your tour. Online resources at digital.denverlibrary.org is a great place to start. If you can't find out very much, focus on the architecture of the building (Why was it built? Does the building tell you anything about the people it was built for? What purpose does it serve?) Write down what you want to say about each building (if you have index cards they work well).
5. Finally, gather your family up and take them on your tour! Maybe they will notice something new about their neighborhood that they've never noticed before, thanks to you! Bring along paper, crayons, or other art supplies in case anyone wants to sketch something they see (this is particularly a good idea if you have younger kids coming on your tour as well).

