



## Virtual Valentine Resources

### History at Home Student Lesson Plans

#### Greek by Design: Richmond or Ruins?

Grade: 3

**Overview:** Students will examine buildings in Richmond better understand how Greek and Roman architecture influenced design in Richmond during the Federal Period.

**Essential Skills:**

- Compare and contrast
- Draw conclusions
- Identify Classical versus Neoclassical architecture

**Virginia Standards of Learning Alignment:**

3.1a, b, e, g, 3.3, 3.5

**Materials**

- "Greek by Design Images" PDF
- Globe beach ball or map of the world
- Symmetry activity PDF
- Markers, crayons, colored pencils
- Scissors



### Vocabulary:

- Arch – A curved structure that serves as a support for an opening
- Architecture – The style or design of buildings
- Classical – Ancient Greek and Roman ideas in art, architecture, government, culture, etc.
- Column – Upright structure used as support in a building
- Dome – Rounded top or roof that looks like half a sphere
- Neoclassical – Revival of ancient Greek or Roman ideas in art, architecture, or literature
- Symmetry – The exact matching of parts on opposite sides of a dividing line

### Program Outline:

1. Start the Conversation
2. Review Classical and Neoclassical architectural styles
3. Play “Richmond and Ruins” Game using "Greek by Design Images" PDF
4. Recap & discover further

### **1. Start the Conversation (these are open ended questions; the answers are there to help guide the conversation):**

Have students identify Rome, Greece and Virginia on **the inflatable globe or on a map of the world**. (You may start this by having them find the Atlantic Ocean then the Mediterranean Sea, as water is much easier to find.)

When you talk about Greece and Rome, you may want to include some of the following background information: Thousands of years ago, Greece ruled much of the area around the Mediterranean Sea and influenced a lot of the culture of the world at that time. When the Romans grew to be a major power in the world, they admired Greek culture so much that they borrowed many ideas about art, architecture and religion from the Greeks.

- **Discuss: If this happened thousands of years ago, how did historians today find out about ancient times?**

Answer: Artifacts found by archaeologists give us evidence about the past.

People in other parts of the world liked to copy things from those places and times to show how well educated they were – that they knew all about Ancient Greece and Rome.

- **Discuss: Our country even adopted a government created by the ancient Greeks and Romans. Do you know what that type of government is called?**
- Answer: A Democracy

## 2. Review Classical or Greek and Roman architectural styles. Ask your students:

- **What is architecture?**

Architecture describes buildings and other structures.

- **Can you give examples of architecture that you know of?**

The home or apartment they live in, the building they go to school in, these are all buildings designed by architects – or people who create buildings.

- **What are some features of Greek and Roman architecture?**

**Classical architecture** is architecture that was made during Ancient Greek or Ancient Roman Times.

**Neoclassical architecture** is architecture that is made more recently and inspired by architecture produced during ancient Greek and Roman times.

Examine images of Greek and Roman architecture together. Consider showing students images of these common Greek and Roman architectural elements.

- Columns: (<https://www.britannica.com/technology/order-architecture>)
- Arches: (<https://www.britannica.com/technology/arch-architecture>)
- Symmetry: (<https://www.historytoday.com/myth-symmetry-and-balance>) online.
- You can also check out some cool examples of ancient design by visiting our neighbor, the VMFA's website: <https://www.vmfa.museum/collections/ancient-art/>

## 3. Play “Richmond in Ruins” Game

Open the “Greek by Design Images” PDF to review with your student.

Explain that students will evaluate images of Richmond and Greece/Rome to identify whether the image shows an example of Richmond architecture or “Ruins” (Greek or Roman architecture). The purpose of this activity is to demonstrate to the students that we have so much classical-inspired architecture in Richmond that it is difficult to tell if a building is located here or in Italy or Greece. If your student thinks the building is located in Italy or Greece they should say “Ruins!” if they think it is located in our city, they can say “Richmond!”

Slide 4: Richmond – St. Paul’s Church (815 E. Grace Street).

- **What kind of columns do they see?** (Corinthian)

Slide 5: Ruins – Church in Rome.

- **What do they see on top of the various buildings?** (Domes)

Slide 6: Richmond – White House of the Confederacy (1201 E. Clay Street).

- **Ask about the columns and the symmetry of the house. What is symmetry?**

If you were to cut the house in half it would look the same on both sides- this would demonstrate symmetry (a classical architectural element!)

Slide 7: Richmond – St. Paul’s Church (815 E. Grace Street) ceiling medallion

Slide 8: Ruins – Ceiling of the Pantheon in Rome

Slide 9: Richmond – Monumental Church (1224 E. Broad Street).

- **The church has a dome, columns, and symmetry.**

Slide 10: Richmond - The Egyptian Building (1223 E. Marshall St).

- **Note the symmetry and columns, this building also has an ancient Egyptian influence.**

Slide 11: Ruins – Caesar’s arch in Rome.

- **Ask your students to describe the arch and note what architectural elements they see.**

Slide 12: Ruins – Roman arch at the entrance to the city

Slide 13: Richmond – Dooley Hospital arch at MCV (1223 E. Marshall St).

Slide 14: Ruins – Roman market (or what the Greeks called an “agora”)

Slide 15: Richmond - Farmers Market in Shockoe Bottom (17<sup>th</sup> street and E Franklin St, Richmond)

Slide 16: Ruins: The Acropolis in Greece

- ***Fun fact:* There is an exact full-scale replica of the Parthenon in Nashville, Tennessee.**

Slide 17: Richmond - The Virginia Capitol (1000 Bank St, Richmond, VA).

- **How is this similar to the Parthenon?**

When Thomas Jefferson designed the building for Virginia’s State Capitol, he used a beautiful ancient Roman temple he had seen in France to get his ideas.

Slide 18: Richmond –Frieze owned by the Valentine family.

- The Valentine family collected Greek vases and sculpture to demonstrate their personal wealth and worldliness.

#### 4. Recap and Discover Further

- **Create symmetry!**

To reinforce the concept of symmetry, download the attached symmetry activity and print. Fold the piece of paper in half along the center fold line so that the outline of half the vase is visible. Keeping the sheet folded, have your student cut along the vase line. Open your vase and students will find that their vase looks the same on both sides. Students can then decorate their vases with colored pencils or markers.

- **Map neoclassical design in Richmond!**

Use a printed map of Richmond or google maps to look for all the neoclassical architecture you discovered during our Richmond in Ruins game!