

A decorative border made of colorful LEGO bricks in red, green, blue, and yellow, arranged in a stepped pattern around the edges of the page.

House of culture

Building a House of Culture

Keywords:

Culture, Community, Architecture, LEGO, STEM, Creativity

Target group:

primary school pupils
(ages 6-11)

Objectives:

This activity aims to help participants understand the fundamental concept of culture and its vital role in shaping communities, while exploring architectural design and construction through hands-on engagement with LEGO and reusable materials. It encourages creativity and personal expression as learners design structures that reflect cultural identity or community values. Through collaborative building challenges, the experience fosters teamwork, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills, empowering participants to analyze, innovate, and communicate their ideas effectively.

General Guideline on Time Allocation:

The duration needed to carry out this activity may vary depending on the specific group of children. Teachers are encouraged to adapt the implementation according to the needs, interests, and dynamics of the group.

In the preparatory phase, teachers may use a variety of activities to introduce and contextualize the chosen topic. These can include discussions, videos, drawings, storytelling, or even a field trip, depending on the age and background knowledge of the children.

The main construction phase, during which children plan and build their urban element using LEGO bricks, should typically not exceed 45 to 60 minutes. However, this phase often stimulates further curiosity and questions among the children, potentially leading to extended engagement or follow-up activities. For more detailed instructions and pedagogical support on how to implement activities of INNO-kids project, please download the Teacher's Methodological Guide.



Materials and Resources Needed:

- LEGO bricks and baseplates
- Recycled materials (e.g., cardboard, plastic bottles, paper rolls)
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Glue, tape, scissors
- Chart papers
- Decorative items (e.g., fabric scraps, beads)

Introduction to the Topic:

Discuss the concept of culture, including traditions, arts, and community activities. Explore how a House of Culture can serve as a hub for cultural activities, events, and education.

Procedure:

Preparation

Divide participants into small groups of 3-4.

Challenge Introduction: "Design and build a House of Culture using LEGO and reusable materials."

Discussion Points:

- *What is culture, and why is it important?*
- *What activities and events take place in a House of Culture (e.g., art exhibitions, music performances, community meetings)?*
- *How can we design a building that reflects our community's culture?*

Planning:

- Draw a plan for the House of Culture on chart paper.
- Include different sections for various cultural activities (e.g., art gallery, performance stage, community room).

Choose LEGO bricks and reusable materials for construction.



Construction:

- Build the structure on a LEGO baseplate, using LEGO bricks for the main framework.
- Use recycled materials to create additional features (e.g., cardboard for walls, plastic bottles for decorative elements).
- Decorate the house to reflect cultural elements, such as traditional patterns, symbols, and colors.



Details

- Create specific areas within the House of Culture, such as an art gallery, music stage, or community meeting room.
- Add LEGO minifigures to represent people participating in cultural activities.

Presentation

- Each group presents their House of Culture to the rest of the participants.
- Explain the design choices and cultural elements included in the house.

Reflection

- Discuss what was learned about culture and community.
- Questions:
 - "Why is culture important for our community?"
 - "How does the House of Culture support cultural activities?"
 - "What features did you include to reflect your community's culture?"

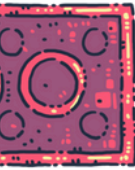
Tips:

Before the building begins, give each group a small box with 3-4 unexpected items representing different cultural elements (ex.: a fabric scrap with traditional patterns, a miniature musical instrument, a postcard of local architecture, or a recipe card). Challenge them to:

- Guess how their items connect to culture (2 min discussion)
- Incorporate at least one into their LEGO design (e.g., use the fabric pattern as inspiration for a mosaic wall)
- Explain during presentation how it reflects their community

Additional Considerations:

Differentiation:



Provide additional support or simplified instructions for pupils who may require extra assistance. For advanced pupils, offer extension tasks such as researching further sustainable practices or designing more complex models.

Assessment:

Assess pupils based on their participation and engagement during discussions and hands-on activities. Evaluate the creativity, effort, collaboration, depth of understanding demonstrated in their models, critical thinking, ability to provide constructive feedback and presentation skills.



Curriculum Connections:

Social Studies (*concept of culture, its expression through architecture*)

Art (*creative expression, design and construction*)

Citizenship and Social Development (*diversity, inclusion, and respect for different cultural expressions within a community*)

Mathematics (*geometric concepts, symmetry, and spatial awareness*)

SDG Connections:

- **SDG 11:** Sustainable Cities and Communities – Pupils explore how to promote inclusive and sustainable community spaces.
- **SDG 4:** Quality Education – Pupils engage in cultural education, broadening their understanding and appreciation of diverse communities.

