

BUILDINGS

We will be looking at some of the most famous buildings in the world. We will be finding out why they are famous and who built them.

THE SYDNEY OPERA



This is the Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia. It was built between 1959 and 1973. It was designed by a Danish architect called Jørn Utzon. In 1956, a competition was announced which allowed architects from all over the world to submit their designs for a new Opera House. Utzon submitted his design and won! Sydney Opera House is one of the most famous buildings in the world and was announced as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007. Millions of tourists every year come to visit the Opera House itself and to see a variety of performances, including opera, ballet, theatre and music.

AESTHETICS

When we are looking at the aesthetics of a building we can look at lots of different things. We can look at the shape of the building, the lines, the colours, the textures, the decorative features and many other things.



ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL



St Paul's Cathedral, London, is an Anglican cathedral. The present church, dating from the late 17th century, was designed in the English Baroque style by Sir Christopher Wren. Its construction, completed in Wren's lifetime, was part of a major rebuilding programme in the City after the Great Fire of London. The cathedral is one of the most famous and most recognisable sights of London.



THE TAJ MAHAL

The Taj Mahal is a white marble mausoleum in Agra, India. A mausoleum is a building that has burial chambers (tombs) in which to bury the dead. The Taj Mahal was built as the tomb of Mumtaz Mahal, the wife of Emperor Shah Jahan. Mumtaz Mahal died giving birth to their fourteenth child and Shah Jahan was so grief-stricken that he decided to build her a beautiful place in which to be buried. Construction of the Taj Mahal began in 1661 and it took twenty years to build. As well as a burial chamber, it also has a mosque, a reflecting pool and a large garden. Millions of people come to visit the Taj Mahal each year. One of the most striking features of the Taj Mahal is its symmetrical design. The building itself is designed to be completely symmetrical and there is also the building's reflection in the pool which gives another line of symmetry.

ST BASIL'S CATHEDRAL



The Cathedral of Vasily the Blessed commonly known as Saint Basil's Cathedral, is a Christian church in Red Square in Moscow, Russia and is regarded as a cultural symbol of the country. It was built from 1555 to 1561 on orders from Ivan the Terrible and commemorates the capture of Kazan and Astrakhan. It was the city's tallest building until the completion of the Ivan the Great Bell Tower in 1600. Not much is known about the architects behind the design of St Basil's Cathedral although it is thought to have been designed by brothers Barma and Postnik Yakovlev.

Key Vocabulary

Building	A structure with a roof and walls, such as a house or factory	Ivan the Terrible	Ivan Vasilyevich or Ivan IV was the first Tsar of All the Russians and Grand Prince of Moscow. He is popularly known as Ivan the Terrible or Ivan the Fearsome for his explosive temper
Architect	It is an architect's job to not only make sure that the building looks good but that it is useful for the purpose it is designed for. Architects also need to make sure that the buildings they design are safe	Commemorates	To mark or celebrate an event
Mausoleum	a stately or impressive building housing a tomb or group of tombs	Aesthetics	Exploring the aesthetics means exploring what a building looks like. We are going to be thinking about what makes some buildings beautiful and comparing different styles of buildings.
symmetry	the state of having two halves that are mirror images of each other	Tomb	a large vault, typically an underground one, for burying the dead
Anglican	relating to the Church of England	Sir Christopher Wren	Sir Christopher Wren was born in Wiltshire, England on 20th October 1632. He was the architect who designed St Paul's Cathedral in London.