

The Challenges of Designing a One-Room Schoolhouse!

Before we had our modern schools with libraries, kitchens, faculty lofts, science labs, art studios, multiple classrooms, and a great room, schools were a lot simpler. The one-room school house was very common around the world, and still is in some places. For this POW, we would like everyone to design a one-room schoolhouse of their own, but not for a school the size of PFS; for this project we'll design schools for 10-15 students with one or two teachers.

Before you begin, you'll need to do some thinking and make some choices. Will you be designing a fantasy schoolhouse, something fun and creative, or will you be working on something more realistic? What are the needs of the teachers and the students and how will your design address those needs? If you're doing a more realistic design, how will you balance design and function? Is there a way to be creative in your design and still make something that would work in reality?

- 1) Describe your schoolhouse in one paragraph or more.
- 2) Make a floor plan of your schoolhouse, showing doors, windows, and important pieces of furniture. Indicate the scale of your drawing. For example, you might choose a scale of 1 cm = 1 ft. Drawing on a blank sheet of paper placed over a sheet of cm graph paper might help. Indicate which direction is north in your floor plan.
- 3) Make one or more elevations of your schoolhouse. These are scale drawings showing one wall from the outside. You might also want to show an interior elevation, showing windows, bulletin boards, cabinets, and other features.
- 4) Can you make a perspective drawing of your schoolhouse?
- 5) Would you like to make a site plan, showing your schoolhouse and the surrounding area? Include important features like a parking lot, playground, and other things your school may need.
- 6) Sometimes architects make three-dimensional models of their plans. Ambitious?
- 7) How about adding detailed drawings of any special features. For example, some classrooms have a loft area.
- 8) Think about your school as if it were going to be built. Do you see any potential issues? Do you think it would be a design that students would like? How about teachers and parents, would they like the design as well? Address these questions with a few sentences or a paragraph.
- 9) Prepare a short (3-4 minute) presentation for your school house. Pretend you are presenting to a group of interested parents who might want to send their children to your school. During class, make your presentation and field questions from the audience.
- 9) Have Fun!!!