

Little People, BIG DREAMS™

TEACHERS' GUIDE



Zaha Hadid

Little People, BIG DREAMS™

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LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

Zaha Hadid was lucky to grow up in an environment that valued open ideas and offered her opportunities to learn from a global perspective. She used this good fortune to quench her thirst for knowledge and fuel her passion for design, eventually shaking up the world of architecture with radically new concepts. Zaha went on to design buildings around the world, winning several prestigious awards along the way. Her success, coupled with her remarkable fearlessness to try something new, will help children from all backgrounds understand that hard work and commitment to their vision—no matter what other people think or say—can help them achieve their dreams.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS IN THIS UNIT

1. Why is Zaha Hadid famous?
2. What aspects of Zaha's childhood helped her succeed in a profession that was dominated by European men?
3. As a child, what did Zaha start out designing?
4. What shapes and forms did Zaha prefer in her buildings?
5. How long did Zaha have to wait for her first building to be completed?
6. What awards did Zaha receive in her career?

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. The book explains that Zaha's favorite subjects in school were math and art. Ask the class

how those subjects helped her in her career as an architect. Ask the students what their favorite subjects are and why. In what ways do they think those subjects will help them be what they want when they grow up?

2. When she was in boarding school in Switzerland and her classmates were out skiing, Zaha “preferred to stay in her room, drawing floating spaces that no one had seen before.” Ask the class why they think she drew spaces that floated. What do they think she was trying to express?

3. Zaha’s first building “was a fire station made of heavy concrete that looked as light as a paper bird.” Ask the class to look again at the illustration in the book. How do they think she made something so heavy seem so light?

4. Ask the students to list the personality traits Zaha needed to become successful in a field where she and her ideas were considered to be strange and different. In what ways do they think these traits can help anyone achieve his or her dreams?

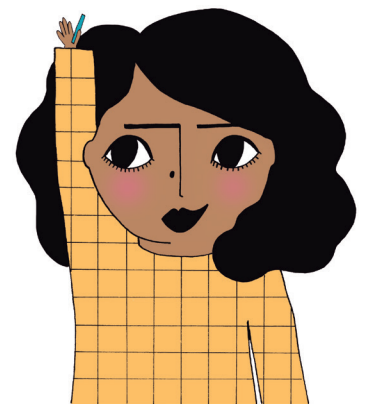
STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. The book explains that when Zaha “was seven, she started designing clothes, and soon, she was working on bedroom furniture.” Ask the students if they have ever designed anything, and if so, to describe what it was. Have the class try their hands at designing something: clothing, furniture, jewelry, a toy, a building – anything they like! Encourage them to try to be unique like Zaha. When finished, post the designs in class. You just might have the work of the next world-famous architect!

2. To get better context on her work, have the class research photographs of Zaha Hadid’s buildings online. What are the students’ reactions? If there is time, also research the works Oscar Niemeyer, one of Zaha’s inspirations. What are the similarities in the two styles? What are the differences?

3. Have your class take their ideas 3D. Using building blocks, Legos, etc., have them construct a building. First ask them to build something with straight lines, then have them create another building with the curves that Zaha favored in her designs. Was one style easier than the other? Which did they like better as a finished product, and why?

4. Ask the class to consider the style of illustrations in the book, taking note of the bold lines, the contrast of curved shapes and straight lines, and the use of browns, oranges, yellows, with pink, blue, and purple accents. Have the class create a drawing that includes those features. It can be of any topic – or they can draw what they’d like to be when they grow up!



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