

The International Exposition of 1900 celebrated scientific discoveries and progress, but it also offered a more festive aspect, with fairgrounds filled with attractions like the tallest Ferris wheel in the world (at the time); the “Rue de Paris,” an area featuring theaters and restaurants; and the Palace of Optics, where visitors could see the moon through a telescope and dine at the gourmet Restaurant de la Lune.

Similar to the International Exposition in Paris was an exposition held in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1897 to commemorate Tennessee’s one hundredth year as a state. The Centennial Exposition was officially opened by President William McKinley and lasted for six months, during which approximately 1.8 million people attended.

In this activity, participants will compare two city plans for the expositions (Paris and Nashville), and then use geometry to help draw and plan (and possibly build) their ideal festival map.

Materials

graph paper, pencils, ruler, compass, markers, tape, scissors

Suggested Reading

M. Sasek’s *This Is Paris* and Ashley Evanson’s *Paris: A Book of Shapes* may be helpful for introducing the project to younger participants.

Resources

- Crash Course Kids. “Let’s Build a City” (#48.1), 2016. Available at youtu.be/gnnUId8Hof0
- Joel Henriques. *Made by Joel: Paper City* posts. madebyjoel.com/paper-city
- KidsBuild! kidsbuild.org
- John Martoni. *Metropolis: A Green City of Your Own*, 2010. Available at www.planning.org/publications/document/9149250/

Lesson Adaptations

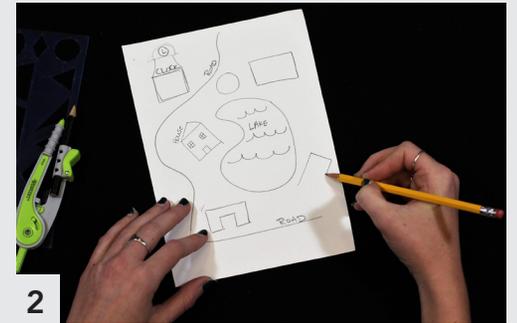
Visit the “Lines in Architecture” video at FristKids.org for an activity suitable for young children.

Advanced participants may create 3-D models of their maps, using paper, clay, or recycled objects to build their city.



1

Think about a big event or festival you could host in your neighborhood (for example, a spaghetti festival, a school carnival, etc.).



2

What are the key activities for your event? Think about how to plan spaces for them on a map.



3

Sketch a map of your neighborhood on graph paper. Use geometric shapes to note your festival locations on the map, such as squares for tents, triangles for green spaces, etc. Include roads, green eating areas, a stage for performances, etc.



4

Trace your final ideas in pen, and add color with markers.



5

Optional: Build a 3-D map by cutting out shapes of your buildings.



6

Share your ideas with your friends, teacher, and family members.