



Death of Architect Frank Gehry (December 10, 2025)

TEACHING GUIDE

What? The death of Frank Gehry, a very famous architect known for his buildings with original shapes.

Who? It's Frank Gehry, an architect born in Canada and recognized worldwide.

Where? Frank Gehry died in Santa Monica, California, USA.

When? He died on December 5, 2025, at the age of 96.

Why is this important? Because Frank Gehry profoundly influenced modern architecture by showing that buildings can be true works of art, bold and creative.

For this activity, your goal will be to learn about Frank Gehry and his original creations!



OBJECTIVES

- Identify buildings designed by Frank Gehry using visual clues.
- Recognize materials characteristic of his architectural style.
- Match iconic buildings to their countries of origin.
- Interpret the emotion or atmosphere conveyed by an architectural work.
- Formulate clear and structured written answers.



SUBJECTS

- **English**
 - Reading
 - Justification
 - Reasoning
- **Visual Arts**
 - Interpretation of works



COMPETENCIES

- Compare, analyze, and interpret images and clues.
- Clearly explain choices and justify answers.
- Formulate a reasoned personal opinion.
- Observe, select, and interpret digital images.



DURATION

- About 60 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Initiate a discussion about architecture:
 - What is a "normal" building?
 - Do all buildings have to look the same?
 - Can a building be considered a work of art?



Death of Architect Frank Gehry (December 10, 2025)

TEACHING GUIDE



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — Who is Frank Gehry? Discovery of the architect through his Wikipedia entry and a news report.

STEP 2 — The Gehry style. Identification of three buildings created by Frank Gehry, out of a possible five buildings presented. General description of these buildings.

A — Louis Vuitton Corporate Foundation (Paris). An iconic building composed of large, curved glass sails supported by a complex steel and wood structure. The architecture evokes movement, lightness, and transparency, while blending into the landscape of the Bois de Boulogne.

B — Walt Disney Concert Hall (Los Angeles). A concert hall with fragmented and sculptural volumes, covered in stainless steel panels. The dynamic forms create a play of light and give the building a strong expressive and monumental dimension, characteristic of Gehry's deconstructivist style.

E — Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health (Las Vegas). A building marked by deliberate asymmetry, with undulating steel walls contrasting with a more orthogonal section. This formal opposition symbolizes the complexity of the human brain and illustrates Gehry's desire to create a dialogue between architecture and function.

STEP 3 — Materials and Locations. Identify the materials used by Frank Gehry. Identify, using Wikipedia, the country where four of Frank Gehry's buildings are located.

Q7 — The three materials often used by Frank Gehry are glass, metal, and stone.

Q8 — The Biomuseo: Panama. The Gehry Tower: Germany. The Marqués de Riscal Hotel: Spain. Luma Arles: France.

IN CONCLUSION — General Description of Frank Gehry's Architectural Style

Frank Gehry's style is distinguished by a deconstructivist architecture, marked by fragmented, curved, and asymmetrical forms that break with traditional codes. By making extensive use of metal and glass, Gehry designs buildings conceived as true urban sculptures. His work seeks less regularity than emotion, surprise, and movement, making each building a powerful and unique visual experience.




WRAPPING UP

- Conduct a group discussion about the investigation:
 - Ask the students what they found easy or difficult;
 - Together, name the characteristics of Frank Gehry's style (irregular shapes, materials, boldness).



FURTHER EXPLORATION

 Joséphine Seblon and Robert Sae-Heng. *Mini Architects. 20 Projects Inspired by the Great Architects.* Thames & Hudson

