

**Title:** Comparing Buildings of Perm to those of Louisville, Kentucky.

**Intended Level:** Middle School Social Studies

**Guiding Question:** Compare the structure and what the materials would cost to build a building in Louisville to that of Perm (for example: labor costs, raw materials, and etc.).

**Activity Summary:** Buildings can be found in countries around the world, but we are often surprised at the differences we find in them. Students will compare/contrast buildings in their city to at least one in the targeted city of Perm to explore the effects of resources on the varying costs of constructing buildings.

**Task:** In small groups, students will make a list and compare the cost of the resources and materials from their research. After their research is finished they will explain which country is cheaper to build in, and give reasons why. Also students will be asked to explain how new technology will reduce or increase the costs of constructing buildings in the designated locations.

**KY World Language Content:**

WL-PM-2.2.D2 Identify economic and social impact of products on world markets

**KY Core Content for Assessment:**

SS-M-3.1.1 Productive resources (land, labor, capital) are limited and do not satisfy all the wants of individuals, societies, and governments (scarcity)

SS-M-3.4.2 Productivity can be improved by specialization, new knowledge, and technology/tools

SS-M-4.4.3 The natural resources of a place or region impact its political, social, and economic development

**The Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics**

Standard 2: Effective decision making requires comparing the additional costs of alternatives with the additional benefits. Most choices involve doing a little more or a little less of something: few choices are “all or nothing” decisions.

Students will be able to use this knowledge to make effective decisions as consumers, producers, savers, investors, and citizens.

**Steps for Planning and Implementing:**

1. Teacher introduces the Perm calendars and breaks students into groups
2. Students are assigned what role they will be in group:
  - Recorder
  - Facilitator
  - Time Keeper

- Reporter
3. Students use websites to investigate buildings of both Louisville (U.S. buildings) and Perm (Russia); students find information on labor cost, raw materials, land, etc.
  4. [Performance Task] In small groups, students will make a list and compare the cost of the resources and materials from their research. After their research is finished they will explain which country is cheaper to build in, and give reasons why. Also students will be asked to explain how new technology will reduce or increase the costs of constructing buildings in the designated locations. This can lead to the students giving their opinions on if Perm should continue to build their buildings like they used to or to build them like the building in the United States.
  5. Finally, students will write a reflection in their journal about what they've learned on the buildings of Perm and as a group construct a poster.

### **Resources**

(Resource URLs: <http://www.gsbox.com/docs/region.htm>;  
<http://www.psu.ru/perm/arch.html>; <http://www.ssp-region.ru/engl/objects.html>)

Two calendars of Perm in the Toolkit

\*note: This lesson will only be of use if you have the toolkit to go along with it.