

Friendly Walls

In this activity children are invited to design and build walls, exploring the different ways that we can affect each other and our community through the things we build. This activity works best with more than one child in a fairly large space.

DRIVING QUESTION



How do the things we build affect each other?

TIME



Flexible - around one hour to construct your walls with the option to extend if you're having fun!

GLOBAL GOALS



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



OBJECTIVE



Design and create friendly spaces that can bring people together.

MATERIALS



- Big paper and pens
- Materials to build walls e.g. large sheets of cardboard or building blocks
- Art supplies to decorate the walls e.g. crayons, pens, chalk, paint, stickers

PLAN



Introduce the activity, explaining that today you will be builders and will think about how the things we build affect us. Ask children to share their understanding and experience of the word wall, along with any examples. Can you give an examples? What might a wall be used for? What about the word build - what might you build and why?



**EKANI
EMPATHY**

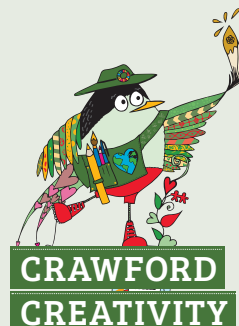
PREPARE



First you are going to **test** different kinds of wall. Invite children to work together to build / draw / describe different types of walls:

- A wall to keep people apart
- A wall to trap someone
- A wall that keeps people together
- A wall for someone to be private but not trapped

Think about the users of these walls. How much space is enough for one person? How might it feel to be alone on one side of the wall? Do people on both sides of the wall have the same experiences? Can you communicate through the wall?



MAKE



Now you've done some testing, it's time to build your **Friendly Wall**. Invite children to build a wall to divide the space in half.

Think together on ways to make the wall friendlier. For example:

- Draw happy messages or add pictures to the wall
- Make the wall into a fence
- Add flowers or decorations
- Soften the edges
- Make windows and doors
- Lower the wall so you can see each other

Using the materials you have available, turn your wall into a friendly wall, working on it from both sides.



REFLECT



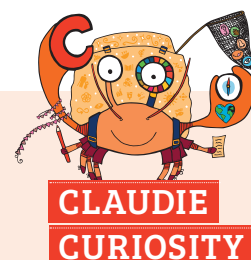
When you have finished, invite children to show each other what they have done. Encourage them to explain why they have added specific features and what effects they are intended to have. What are their favourite parts of the friendly wall? This is a chance for children to give each other positive feedback. When you are finished you can take photos to share your work with others on social media using [#GlobalGoalsExplorers](#) and tagging [@TheWorldsLesson](#).



CELEBRATE!



Congratulate children on their brilliant work. Remind them what the wall was like at first and show how much it has changed for the better. Can you think of other places in your home / school / community that you could make more friendly?



EXTENSION



Look at *Goal 3: Health and Wellbeing* and *Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities* on the **Global Goals** grid. Take time to explore what these could mean and how they relate to your own life. Then discuss how they are related. How does your community help you to be healthy? Can you think of places which are very happy? What about places which are scary? The way we build our communities can change how we feel — from a scary dungeon to a beautiful garden.

