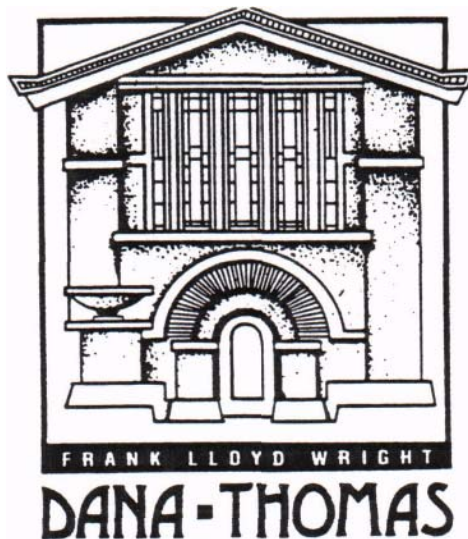


# DANA-THOMAS HOUSE TEACHER PACKET



**Frank Lloyd Wright's Dana-Thomas House**  
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# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	
Welcome-----	3
Suggestions for the Teacher-----	4
Illinois Learning Standards-----	5
History of the Dana-Thomas House-----	6
Classroom Activities	
Shapes, Shapes, and More Shapes (early elementary)-----	11
Geometry and Nature (upper elementary)-----	13
Susan Dana and Frank Lloyd Wright (upper elementary or middle)-----	17
Geometry and Nature (middle school)-----	19
Geometry and Nature (high school)-----	23
Wright's Prairie School Houses (high school)-----	27
Student Worksheets	
Sumac Window Coloring Sheet-----	29
Treasure Hunt (upper elementary)-----	30
Research Projects (middle or high school)-----	32
Architecture and the Dana-Thomas House Puzzle-----	34
References	
Glossary	
Resources	

## **Welcome to the Dana-Thomas House**

Welcome to the elegant world of Springfield high society as you step through time to the turn-of-the-century with Frank Lloyd Wright and Susan Dana. See the genius of a young, innovative architect as he realizes the dream of an heiress to show the world that her city is a center of progress and culture. Walk through the arched entrance with its blaze of abstract butterflies and experience the glory of wild sumac recreated in stained glass windows.

In the Dana-Thomas House, you see an example of the bold and distinctive Prairie School of Architecture which emerges from the study of nature and a desire to reflect its beauty in the design of a new style of living. Frank Lloyd Wright draws his inspiration for the decoration in the house from the colors of the prairie fall, capturing this special time of year in spectacular art glass windows. Using natural lighting, earth-tone colors, interesting textures, and an abundance of wood for furnishings and trim, Wright brings the prairie indoors, and he invites the visitor to wander through the changing levels and spaces of this magnificent work of architecture.

When Susan Dana envisioned the idea of this special house, she wanted it to be a symbol of refinement and style for the city of Springfield. It was her desire that all who visited the house would be impressed by the worldliness and progressive ideas of its citizens. As you visit the home, you will find interesting treasures and artwork that give you clues to the values and ethics of the time. The following educational packet was created by teachers, curriculum specialists, and professionals who encourage you to use your visit to the Dana-Thomas House as a stepping stone to helping students understand this period of history when people placed strong value on art and beauty in their lives.

## **Suggestions for Teachers**

### **Using the Guide**

The activities in this packet revolve around three sets of images found on either a CD or a slide set. The first set of images familiarizes the students with the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright. These pictures help students to understand the significance of the Dana-Thomas House in the history of architecture. The second group of images is devoted to the Dana-Thomas House itself. The photographs give students a preview of the extraordinary beauty of the house and allow them to look closely at architectural details they might ordinarily miss on a tour. The third set of images is Frank Lloyd Wright's designs for windows and doors using leaded glass. These pictures are used to stimulate students' imagination and to provide a springboard for creative activities.

The activities in this study guide are designed for four different grade levels: early elementary, upper elementary, middle, and high school. To enable teachers to select the appropriate activities for their classes, each grade group has activities for different disciplines and of various levels of difficulty. The activities have been designed to teach concepts that support the Illinois Learning Standards that are listed on a separate page. A reference section at the end of the study guide activities includes a brief history of the Dana-Thomas House, a time line that relates the house to historical events, an illustrated glossary of architectural terms, and a bibliography.

A third component of this packet is the scripts that accompany the images. The materials in this packet are designed to be used in multiple ways. Using Microsoft PowerPoint technology or slides with the scripts, teachers can present three separate illustrated lectures. Students can work independently by viewing the appropriate CD band while reading the scripts or by using reference materials and/or the scripts and the CDs for independent research. Teachers can lead their classes through the activities and create other ways to enrich their students' visit to the Dana-Thomas House with the materials.

## **ILLINOIS LEARNING STANDARDS**

The activities in this study guide have been designed to teach concepts that support the following Illinois Learning Standards:

### **Language Arts**

- 1.C. Comprehend a broad range of reading materials.
- 3.C. Communicate ideas in writing to accomplish a variety of purposes.
- 5.C. Locate, organize and use information from various sources to answer questions, solve problems and communicate ideas.

### **Social Science**

- 16.D. Understand Illinois, United States and world social history.
- 18.A. Compare characteristics of culture as reflected in language, literature, the arts, traditions, and institutions.

### **Fine Arts**

- 25.A. Understand the sensory elements, organizational principles and expressive qualities of the arts.
- 26.A. Understand processes, traditional tools and modern technologies used in the arts.
- 27.A. Analyze how the arts function in history, society and everyday life.