

If you only have 30 minutes ...

Text Mining: (12 minutes)

Task1: Cloze Reading— Trace Gaudí's Architectural Ideas

Complete the paragraph below using the **Cloze Word Bank**:

Gaudí's most famous work is the [], a massive church in []. He worked on it for much of his life, and it is still under [] today.

Inside, tall columns branch out like [], creating the feeling of a forest. Stained-glass [] allow light to enter and change color throughout the day, from cool blues in the [] to warm [] in the evening.

Gaudí drew inspiration from [] architecture and blended different cultural influences into his own style. He carefully considered how [] enters a building. At the Sagrada Família, he also used lettering made from [] tiles on the towers, echoing decorative writing found in Islamic []. His use of light connects to Islamic architecture, where light is often used to create a sense of the [].

Today, Gaudí's [] can be seen in architects around the world. He believed that [] should combine beauty, function and meaning. His buildings are designed not just to be used, but to be [].¹

Cloze Word Bank

Architecture	Barcelona	Buildings	Ceramic
Construction	Experienced	Golds	Influence
Islamic	Light	Morning	Sacred
Sagrada Família	Trees	Windows	

Task 2: Compare Two Buildings

Find one detail about Casa Vicens and one about the Sagrada Família that shows how Gaudí used architectural features to shape a visitor's experience.

Building	Detail From the Reading
Casa Vicens ²	
Sagrada Família ³	

Text Analysis (12 minutes)

Use evidence you identified in the reading to explain what Gaudí did with his influences and why those choices matter.

Focus	Guiding Questions	Analysis
Nature⁴	How did Gaudí transform forms he observed in nature into architectural ideas?	
Cultural Influence⁵	How did Gaudí adapt ideas from Islamic architecture rather than simply copy its forms?	
Color and Light⁶	How did Gaudí use materials, color and light to shape how people experience his buildings?	

Synthesis (6 minutes)

Gaudí studied architecture from different cultures, drew inspiration from nature and experimented with geometry, color and light.

Using at least two examples from the reading, explain how Gaudí transformed these influences into a style of his own. What does his work suggest about the relationship between cultural influence and creativity?⁷

Common Core Standard(s) Met:

CCRA.R.1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

CCRA.R.2 Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

CCRA.R.3 Analyze how and why individuals, events, or ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

1 Gaudí's most famous work is the **Sagrada Família**, a massive church in **Barcelona**. He worked on it for much of his life, and it is still under **construction** today.

Inside, tall columns branch out like **trees**, creating the feeling of a forest. Stained-glass **windows** allow light to enter and change color throughout the day, from cool blues in the **morning** to warm **golds** in the evening.

Gaudí drew inspiration from **Islamic** architecture and blended different cultural influences into his own style. He carefully considered how **light** enters a building. At the Sagrada Família, he also used lettering made from **ceramic** tiles on the towers, echoing decorative writing found in Islamic **buildings**. His use of light connects to Islamic architecture, where light is often used to create a sense of the **sacred**.

Today, Gaudí's **influence** can be seen in architects around the world. He believed that **architecture** should combine beauty, function and meaning. His buildings are designed not just to be used, but to be experienced.

2 Casa Vicens: Students may identify the lattice-like window designs and muqarnas, described in the reading as “honeycomb-shaped niches.” They may also note its colorful tilework or other features associated with Islamic and Mudéjar architecture.

3 Sagrada Família: Students may identify the “columns branch out like trees” or the stained-glass windows through which light changes “from cool blues in the morning to warm golds in the evening.”

4 Nature: Students should recognize that Gaudí did more than decorate buildings with images of nature. Natural forms helped shape his architecture. The reading describes how he was “inspired by the relationship between nature and the divine” and later shows this influence in the tree-like columns of the Sagrada Família.

5 Cultural Influence: Students should explain that Gaudí studied principles and transformed them, rather than merely reproducing architectural forms. He studied

Egyptian, Persian and Indian buildings and was especially interested in the Alhambra. From Islamic architecture, he drew on ideas involving geometry, light, color, courtyards, tilework and ornament. He then incorporated these ideas into an architectural language of his own.

Students may cite Casa Batlló as a strong example: its central courtyard brings natural light into the building, while graduated blue tiles and changing window sizes help distribute that light. The example demonstrates how Gaudí adapted architectural principles to solve a practical problem.

6 Color and Light: Students should identify both technique and effect. Gaudí used ceramic tiles to introduce color, *trencadís* to create mosaics from irregular pieces of broken tile and stained glass to transform natural light. At the Sagrada Família, changing light creates different colors and experiences throughout the day. Strong responses should recognize that color and light function as parts of the architecture rather than as decoration alone.

⁷ Strong responses should connect influence → transformation → originality. Students may explain that Gaudí drew from Islamic architecture, other architectural traditions and nature without simply reproducing any one of them. At Casa Vicens, Islamic and *Mudéjar* influences remain visible in its tilework, lattice-like designs and muqarnas. In later works, he increasingly transformed underlying ideas. Casa Batlló uses a courtyard, graduated color and changing window sizes to control natural light, while the Sagrada Família combines tree-like structural forms, stained glass, geometry and changing light to create an immersive experience.

Responses should arrive at the broader idea that cultural influence and originality are not opposites. Gaudí's work demonstrates how studying ideas from different traditions, understanding how they function and adapting them for new purposes can become a source of creative innovation.