

Brooklyn Bridge Program

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Description:

The Municipal Archives at the New York City Department of Records & Information Services (DORIS) is offering a program to elementary school classes to share information about the Brooklyn Bridge. The Municipal Archives has a large collection of Brooklyn Bridge material related to its design, construction, and modes of transportation. We have developed a presentation for classes to interact with these unique and rare archival materials. The experience provides students with an opportunity to interact with primary sources to foster a better understanding of the Brooklyn Bridge and its relationship to infrastructure and transportation within New York City.

Where:

There are currently three options for presenting the program, which lasts approximately 45 minutes:

1. Fully virtual via Zoom;
2. Hybrid: a presenter or presenters would visit the school and lead students through a PowerPoint and activity;
3. An in-person visit to DORIS (31 Chambers Street, NYC 10007). Note: this is available on a limited basis and can accommodate no more than 30 students per trip.

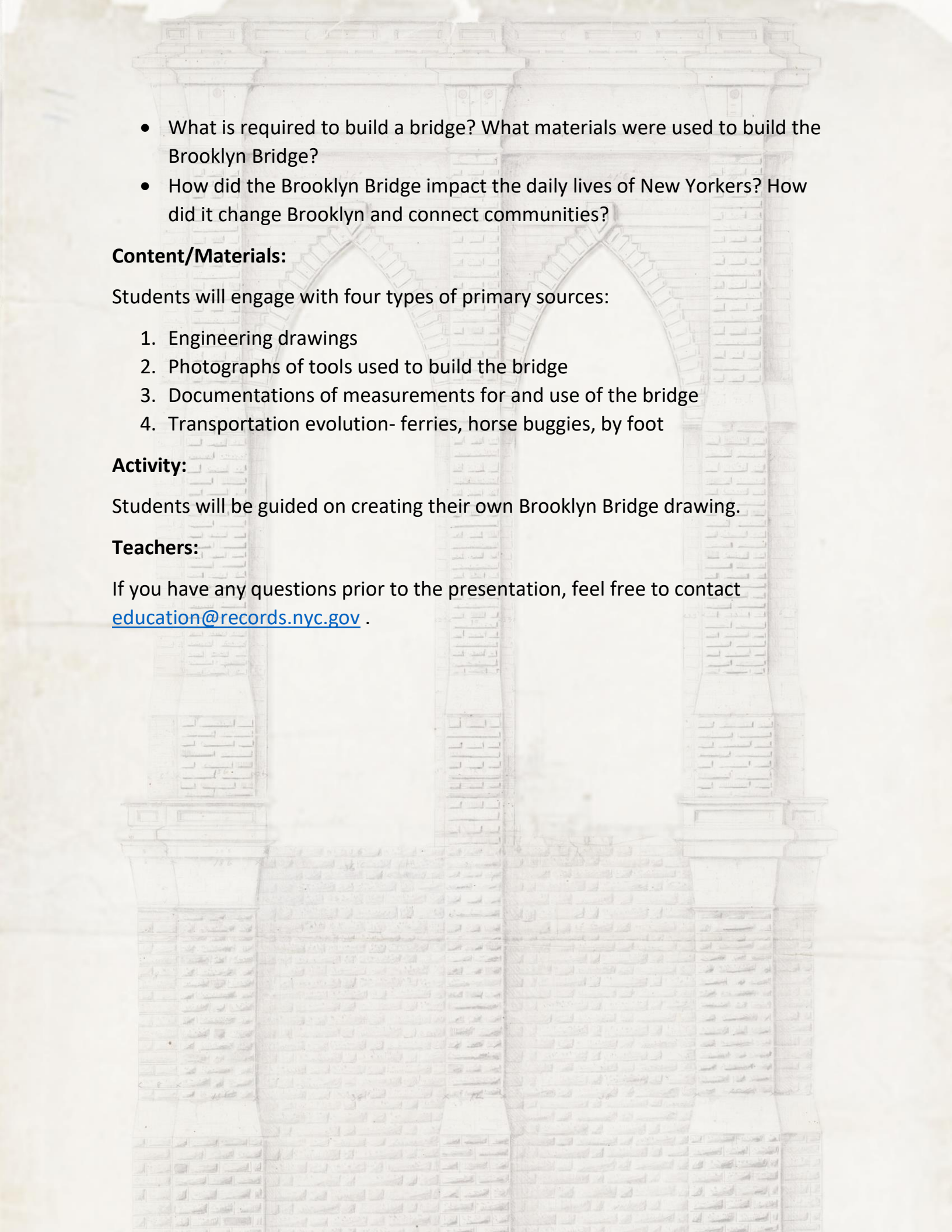
Who:

1st to 6th grade classes with up to 30 students

Objectives:

Students will gain a greater understanding of the following themes at the conclusion of their class visit:

- How was the Brooklyn Bridge built? How is a bridge designed?

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- The background of the page is a detailed architectural drawing of the two main towers of the Brooklyn Bridge. The towers are shown from a low angle, looking up, and are rendered in a light, sketchy style. They feature Gothic-style arches at the top and are supported by massive, textured stone pillars. The drawing is centered and occupies most of the page's width and height.
- What is required to build a bridge? What materials were used to build the Brooklyn Bridge?
 - How did the Brooklyn Bridge impact the daily lives of New Yorkers? How did it change Brooklyn and connect communities?

Content/Materials:

Students will engage with four types of primary sources:

1. Engineering drawings
2. Photographs of tools used to build the bridge
3. Documentations of measurements for and use of the bridge
4. Transportation evolution- ferries, horse buggies, by foot

Activity:

Students will be guided on creating their own Brooklyn Bridge drawing.

Teachers:

If you have any questions prior to the presentation, feel free to contact education@records.nyc.gov .