

Architect–Messenger–Builder

Classroom-ready printable pack · Grades K–8

Pack contents

role/rule cards, message tokens, observation sheet, and optional layout mat Two student sets are included.

Teacher directions

1. Prepare the teacher-supplied manipulatives named on the activity page, or use the included paper alternative where provided.
2. Give partners identical support materials; keep the model, rule, or sequence hidden from the Builder.
3. Run the barrier round using the included tokens, cards, mat, or recording sheet.
4. Compare, apply the reference check, revise one unclear instruction, and switch roles.

Before class

- Print at 100% on US Letter paper. Use cardstock or laminate for reuse.
- Cut on the thick solid borders. Keep Set A and Set B separate.
- Give challenge/model cards only to the Describer.
- Use a folder, book, or tabletop barrier so partners cannot see each other's work.

Accessibility and accommodations

Use the paper alternative, reduce the set, enlarge cards, read labels aloud, and permit repeated directions. Cards combine words, symbols, and patterns rather than relying on color.

Storage-envelope labels

Architect–Messenger–Builder

Set A — Describer

Count pieces before storing.

Architect–Messenger–Builder

Set B — Builder

Count pieces before storing.

Architect–Messenger–Builder

Challenge / model cards

Count pieces before storing.

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Teacher reference

Count pieces before storing.

Student language supports

Position: above · below · beside · between · near · far · left · right · clockwise**Clarify:** “Please repeat...” · “Is ___ beside ___?” · “What should I place next?”**Compare:** same · different · rotate · move · replace · sequence

Movable pieces

Set A

Cut on the solid borders. This set is identical to the partner set.



Movable pieces

Set B

Cut on the solid borders. This set is identical to the partner set.



Architect–Messenger–Builder support mat

Cut the page in half. Both partner mats are identical.

Set A — Architect–Messenger–Builder support mat

setup • sequence / arrangement • check • revision notes

top / far

center

bottom / near

Set B — Architect–Messenger–Builder support mat

setup • sequence / arrangement • check • revision notes

top / far

center

bottom / near

Describer-only challenge cards

Keep these cards hidden from the Builder.

Challenge 1

one trip per message

Challenge 2

ten-word messages

Challenge 3

Messenger may ask Architect only

Challenge 4

Builder feedback allowed

Architect–Messenger–Builder reference

Teacher-supplied materials and reference

Role cards define information access. The Messenger carries words only and does not alter the design.

This is an optional convenience pack. Ordinary manipulatives remain teacher-supplied; inspect physical materials and adapt difficulty, reading load, movement, and sensory demands for the learners present.

Quality check after a round

- Can each student identify pieces by shape or label without relying on color?
- Do both models match in pieces, order, orientation, and relative position?
- Which direction was most precise? Which should be revised?