

# Introduction For Teachers

## Designing Villages and Communities For the Future

This unit can follow the *Clean Energy* and *The Renewable Energy Festival* units found on this IASD Thematic Teaching website, or it can stand on its own with information referenced from the above units as needed. While all three units are focused on the uniqueness of Alaskan communities and villages, *Designing Villages and Communities For the Future* takes an additional step by involving students in identifying aspects and planning of the **ideal** village and community:

- What is involved the planning of a community?
- What sustains it?
- What are the ideal energy sources?

In this unit, students will be introduced to biomimicry that can be thought of as engineering and architectural approaches to design in nature. Students will *inquire* into systems and species found in nature. They will ask each other what to consider when designing a village:

- Who lives in the community?
- What clean renewable energy sources are used?
- What food is produced through sustainable methods?
- How is waste managed?
- What green infrastructure projects are included?

After writing a narrative for the Future Village, students will build a table model of a realistic, ideal village from recycled materials.

Recommended websites for great ideas and inspiration:

- <http://biomimicry.net/>
- <http://www.asknature.org/>
- 16 Easy Steps to Gardening in Alaska, UAF publication  
<http://www.uaf.edu/files/ces/publications-db/catalog/anr/HGA-00134.pdf>