Design an ADA Playground

- Show students *How to Treat a Person With Disabilities, According to People With Disabilities*. There is a swear word at 2:19. Stop the video at 2:53.
  - **Ask:** What stands out to you from the video? How do the people in the video view themselves?
  - **Ask:** Do you know a person with a disability? What is it like for them to go to the park, the grocery store, or school?
  - **Ask:** What does it mean to have accessible structures, such as schools, churches, playgrounds, stores, etc.? What happens when these places are not accessible? Why is it important to be considerate of those with different needs?
- Show students *What Are Disabilities?* and discuss the different types of needs people with these disabilities may or may not have.
- Inform students that outdoor play areas built after March 15, 2012, must follow the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. Requirements include the following:
  - an accessible path from the parking lot to the play area
  - an accessible path onto the play equipment
  - accessible surfacing (such as turf)
  - **Ask:** Are there accessible play structures in your community? Where are they? What makes them accessible to people with disabilities?
  - **Ask:** What play features would you include in an accessible playground? Explain.
- Show students examples of inclusive *Playground Designs* and discuss what they notice.
- Provide students with a large sheet of butcher paper and general art supplies. Instruct students to design an accessible playground. Designs should include the following:
  - accessible play structure
  - sensory activities
  - accessible pathways
  - "safe" or "quiet" spaces
  - color
- Have students write one paragraph explaining how their design meets the needs of people with various abilities, both physical and mental.

Approx. Time ⏲

30 minutes

Success Criteria 💬

- **Students will be able to examine the accessibility of public spaces.**

Big Questions ✔

- **How accessible are my community's public places to peoples with disabilities?**

Materials ✏

- How to Treat a Person With Disabilities, According to People With Disabilities video
- What Are Disabilities video
- Playground Designs examples
- Butcher paper
- Art supplies