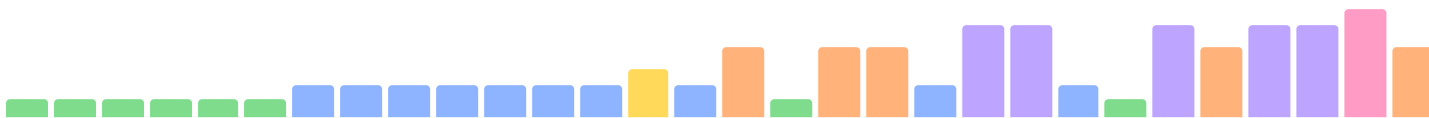


Hong Kong Buildings Through Time

30 students, 30 buildings, 500+ years. Each student draws one real Hong Kong building on a sheet of A4 grid paper and cuts it out. The class then sticks all 30 across a display board in order of the year each was built, so the timeline runs from walled villages on the left to glass skyscrapers on the right.



1

Pick

Each student takes one building from the list (or draws one at random).

2

Research

Find two or three photos. Note its shape, windows, roof and materials.

3

Draw to size

Use the size band so the drawing fills the right amount of the page.

4

Label & cut

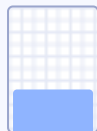
Add the number, name and date, then cut carefully around the outline.

Size guide for the A4 cut-out

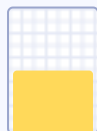
Every student starts with the same sheet, so drawing to a band keeps the board roughly to scale.



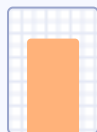
XS up to ~20 m (1-3 storeys)
Bottom quarter of the page



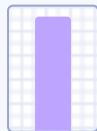
S ~20-60 m (3-15 storeys)
About one third of the page



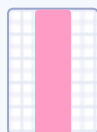
M ~60-150 m (a medium tower)
About half the page



L ~150-300 m (a tall skyscraper)
About three quarters; narrow and tall



XL ~300-420 m (a supertall)
Nearly the whole page height



XXL over 420 m (ICC only!)
The full sheet, edge to edge

Notes for the teacher

- **Grid paper helps a lot.** Students count squares to keep proportions, and it makes the scale bands easy to follow.
- **Dates for the oldest sites are approximate.** They mark when each village or temple reached its current recognised form.
- **Old style vs old building:** Chi Lin Nunnery (#24) is a modern rebuild in an ancient style. A good discussion point.
- **Not every modern building is tall.** The Space Museum (#17) and the Peak Tower (#23) break the pattern. The Peak Tower is low, but sits 428 m above sea level: building height vs height above sea level is a great discussion.
- **Print page 2-3 as a hand-out,** or cut the list into 30 slips for students to draw at random.
- **Mount the cut-outs on coloured card** along the bottom of the board, and add a date label every few buildings.
- **Discuss:** When did buildings start getting taller? Why? (Land, population, money, technology.)

The 30 buildings, oldest to newest (1–15)

#	BUILDING	DATE	SIZE	FUN FACT
1	Tsui Sing Lau Pagoda Ping Shan, Yuen Long	Ming dynasty (c. 600 years old)	XS	Hong Kong's only surviving ancient pagoda, built by the Tang clan. Said to have had 7 storeys; only 3 survive.
2	Kat Hing Wai Walled Village Kam Tin, Yuen Long	Founded 1400s; walls 1600s	XS	A walled village with a single narrow gateway and a moat, built for defence.
3	Sam Tung Uk Tsuen Wan	Built 1786	XS	A single-storey walled Hakka village, now a museum of how a whole clan lived together.
4	Flagstaff House Hong Kong Park, Central	Completed 1846	XS	Hong Kong's oldest surviving Western-style building; now the Museum of Tea Ware.
5	Man Mo Temple Sheung Wan	Built 1847	XS	Famous for the giant spiral incense coils hanging from its ceiling.
6	Tsang Tai Uk Sha Tin	Built 1848–1868	XS	One of the largest and grandest Hakka walled villages in Hong Kong.
7	St John's Cathedral Central	Completed 1849	S	The oldest Anglican church in East Asia, with a square bell tower.
8	Former Marine Police HQ (1881 Heritage) Tsim Sha Tsui	Completed 1884	S	A colonial hilltop base that watched over Victoria Harbour; now shops and a hotel.
9	Western Market Sheung Wan	Completed 1906	S	A red-brick Edwardian market hall, now a heritage shopping arcade.
10	Court of Final Appeal Building (former Supreme Court) Central	Completed 1912	S	Granite neoclassical building topped by a statue of the Greek goddess of justice.
11	Former KCR Clock Tower Tsim Sha Tsui	Completed 1915	S	All that is left of Kowloon's original railway station.
12	The Peninsula Hotel Tsim Sha Tsui	Opened 1928	S	Nicknamed “the Grande Dame of the Far East”, one of Asia's oldest grand hotels.
13	Lui Seng Chun Mong Kok	Built 1931	S	A classic “tong lau” shophouse: shop below, homes above. Now a Chinese medicine clinic.
14	Old Bank of China Building Central	Completed 1950	M	Hong Kong's tallest building when it opened.
15	Ten Thousand Buddhas Monastery Sha Tin	Completed 1957	S	Nearly 13,000 golden Buddha statues, and over 400 steps up the hillside.

The 30 buildings, oldest to newest (16–30)

#	BUILDING	DATE	SIZE	FUN FACT
16	Jardine House Central	Completed 1973	L	Famous for its round “porthole” windows; the tallest building in Asia when it opened.
17	Hong Kong Space Museum Tsim Sha Tsui	Completed 1980	XS	Its dome makes it look like a giant egg on the harbourfront.
18	Hopewell Centre Wan Chai	Completed 1980	L	Hong Kong's first round skyscraper, with a revolving restaurant near the top.
19	HSBC Main Building Central	Completed 1985	L	Built with no central core, so the ground floor is an open public space.
20	Hong Kong Cultural Centre Tsim Sha Tsui	Completed 1989	S	Famous (and debated!) for having no windows facing the harbour view.
21	Bank of China Tower Central	Completed 1990	XL	Designed by I. M. Pei to look like bamboo shoots growing upward.
22	Central Plaza Wan Chai	Completed 1992	XL	The tallest building in Asia when it opened; its spire lights tell the time.
23	The Peak Tower Victoria Peak	Completed 1997	S	Shaped like a giant wok; its rooftop Sky Terrace 428 is 428 m above sea level.
24	Chi Lin Nunnery Diamond Hill	Rebuilt 1998–2000	XS	A modern rebuild in ancient Tang-dynasty style, using no metal nails at all.
25	The Center Central	Completed 1998	XL	Its steel frame lights up in changing colours at night.
26	Cheung Kong Center Central	Completed 1999	L	A simple, elegant glass box designed to look timeless.
27	Two International Finance Centre Central	Completed 2003	XL	Hong Kong's second-tallest tower; it appears in the film The Dark Knight.
28	Nina Tower Tsuen Wan	Completed 2006	XL	One of the tallest buildings outside Hong Kong Island.
29	International Commerce Centre (ICC) West Kowloon	Completed 2010	XXL	Hong Kong's tallest building, with the sky100 viewing deck on the 100th floor.
30	The Henderson Central	Completed 2024	L	A curved glass tower by Zaha Hadid Architects, shaped like a bauhinia flower bud.

Make this for **your** city

Not in Hong Kong? Paste this prompt into an AI chatbot and it will build the whole task sheet for your own town or city: the building list, dates, size bands and teacher notes.

1. Open Gemini

gemini.google.com (your school account works).
Choose **Canvas** if you see it.

2. Edit the yellow bits

Your city, class size, year group, and any buildings you must include.

3. Paste and send

Then ask for changes: "swap #12 for something older", "simpler facts".

4. Check it

AI can get dates, heights and order wrong. Check anything marked **(check)**, and ask it to fix mistakes.

I'm a teacher. I want to run a "buildings through time" timeline activity with my class, and I'd like you to create the student task sheet for my city.

MY DETAILS (edit these)

- City or town: **[YOUR CITY]**
- Number of students (one building each): **[30]**
- Year group / age: **[Year 7, age 11-12]**
- Buildings I definitely want included: **[e.g. our school, a famous local landmark]**
- Paper size for the drawings: **[A4]**

THE ACTIVITY

Each student draws one building on a single sheet of paper (squared/grid paper works best), cuts it out, and the class sticks all the cut-outs across a display board in date order. The finished board should show how the city's buildings and skyline changed over time, from its oldest surviving structures to its newest or tallest buildings.

WHAT I NEED YOU TO MAKE

1. A list of exactly **[30]** real, standalone buildings in **[YOUR CITY]** (no bridges, canals, statues or parks, and nothing outside the city), in strict date order from oldest to newest, using each building's ORIGINAL completion date (not later refurbishments). Spread them across the city's whole history and include a mix of types: homes, religious buildings, markets, civic and government buildings, transport, schools, offices and towers. Include a few small modern buildings so students see that "new" doesn't always mean "tall".
2. For each building, give: number, name, area of the city, date completed (approximate is fine for very old sites, but say so), approximate real height in metres, size band (see below), and a one-sentence fun fact written for students of this age.
3. A relative size guide so the drawings are roughly to scale, even though every student starts with the same sheet of paper. Use six bands based on real height, and work out the height ranges from the tallest building on your FINAL list (whichever building is actually tallest, not necessarily one I named). Only that one building is XXL and fills the whole sheet:
 - XS: fills about the bottom quarter of the sheet
 - S: about one third of the sheet
 - M: about half the sheet
 - L: about three quarters of the sheet
 - XL: nearly the whole height of the sheet
 - XXL: the full sheet, edge to edge (the tallest building only)Show the guide as a table: band, real height range in metres, and how to draw it on the sheet.
4. Short student instructions: research your building, draw it to its size band on grid paper, add the building's number, name and date, then cut it out carefully around the outline.
5. A few notes for the teacher: which dates are approximate or uncertain, any building that is a modern rebuild of an old design, and ideas for talking points about how and why the city's buildings changed.

IMPORTANT

- Before you finish, check your own work: exactly **[30]** different buildings (no repeats), strict date order, only one XXL (the tallest), and every size band matches that building's height.
- Only use real buildings that still stand today (or say clearly if one is a rebuild).
- If you are not sure of a date, height or fun fact, mark it with "(check)" so I can verify it. Do not invent facts. End with a short "Facts to check" list.
- Format it as a clean, printable task sheet with a title, the size guide table, then the building list table.
- If Canvas is available, create the sheet in Canvas so I can edit it and print it.