

Sculpture: Form, Texture and Space

Learning objective: To explore the techniques of additive and subtractive sculpture and understand how three-dimensional forms occupy space.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of sculpture techniques and artistic vocabulary to provide detailed, thoughtful answers.

Zara the zebra is creating a sculpture for the forest gallery. She uses clay to build up the shape (additive) and a wooden tool to carve away excess material (subtractive). She must ensure her sculpture is balanced so it does not topple over.

Word bank: Additive · Subtractive · Form · Texture · Medium · Armature · Relief · Stability

1. Zara is using clay to build up the legs of her lion sculpture. Is this an additive or subtractive process? Justify your reasoning using artistic vocabulary. (2 marks)

2. Explain why an artist might need to create an 'armature' before they start adding clay to a sculpture. What purpose does it serve for the final piece? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast a 'relief' sculpture with a 'sculpture in the round'. How does the way we view them differ? (3 marks)

4. If a sculptor is working with stone rather than clay, which technique (additive or subtractive) would be more common? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

5. What might happen to a sculpture if the centre of gravity is not considered? Suggest one way an artist could solve this stability problem. (2 marks)

Draw: Design a sculpture inspired by nature. Sketch your plan from two different angles (front and side). Label the parts where you would use 'additive' techniques and where you would use 'subtractive' techniques.



Extension challenge: Imagine you have a budget of £50 to buy materials for a class sculpture project. If clay costs £5 per kilogram and wire for armatures costs £8 per roll, create a shopping list that justifies your choices. Explain why you have chosen these specific materials to ensure your final sculpture is both stable and visually interesting.