

Zara's Sculptural Perspectives: Form and Texture

Learning objective: To explore how artists use form, texture, and materials to create 3D sculptures, and to understand the distinction between additive and subtractive techniques.

Zara the Zebra has been visiting the local sculpture park! She has noticed that every sculpture has a unique 'form' (shape) and 'texture' (how it feels). Read the descriptions below and decide if the artist used an 'additive' technique (building up materials like clay) or a 'subtractive' technique (carving away materials like stone or wood). Then, answer the deeper thinking questions to test your knowledge.

Word bank: Additive · Subtractive · Form · Texture · Medium · Carving · Modelling · Structure

1. An artist starts with a large, solid block of marble and chips away at it to reveal a statue of a bird. Is this additive or subtractive? Explain why. (2 marks)

2. Zara is using soft clay to build a model of a tree, adding small pieces to make the branches grow. Why is this considered an 'additive' technique? (2 marks)

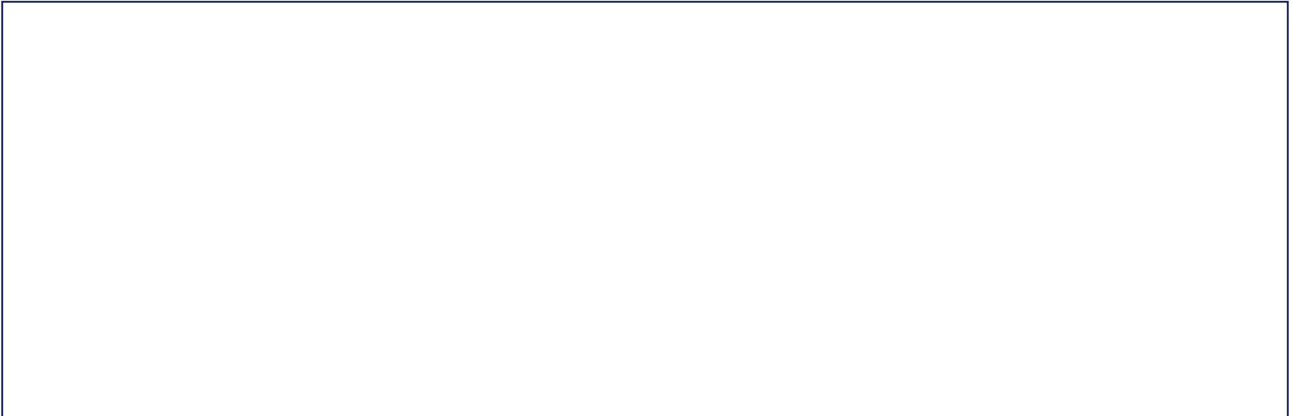
3. Compare and contrast: How does the choice of material (e.g., stone versus wire) change the way an artist approaches their sculpture? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: If you were creating a sculpture of a storm, which texture would you choose—smooth or rough? Why? (2 marks)

5. What might happen if an artist tried to use a 'subtractive' technique on a material that was very soft, like wet mud? (2 marks)

6. If you had a budget of £10 for materials, suggest two different items you could buy to create a mixed-media sculpture. Explain your choices. (2 marks)

Draw: In the space below, sketch a design for a sculpture that uses both 'additive' and 'subtractive' elements. Label the parts of your drawing where you would add material and where you would carve it away.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a professional sculptor. Write a short 'Artist Statement' (4-5 sentences) describing your new sculpture. Use sophisticated vocabulary like 'silhouette', 'tactile', 'proportion', and 'composition' to explain the meaning behind your artwork.