

Zara's Sculptural Shapes: A Study in 3D Form

Learning objective: To understand the difference between relief and freestanding sculpture and explore how artists use materials to create texture.

Zara the Zebra is planning an art exhibition! Look at the descriptions of different sculpture types below. For each question, decide whether the artwork described is a 'Relief' sculpture (attached to a background) or a 'Freestanding' sculpture (can be walked all the way around). Then, explain your reasoning based on how the artist might have used their materials.

Word bank: Relief · Freestanding · Texture · Form · Materials · Three-dimensional

1. Zara creates a clay scene of a forest where the trees stick out from a apartment wooden board. Is this Relief or Freestanding? Explain why. (2 marks)

2. Max makes a model of a giant banana using wire and papier-mâché that sits in the middle of the room. Is this Relief or Freestanding? Explain why. (2 marks)

3. If an artist wanted to make a sculpture look like a prickly hedgehog, what 'materials' could they use to create that specific texture? (2 marks)

4. Why must a Freestanding sculpture be carefully balanced or have a wide base? (2 marks)

5. If you were carving a sculpture out of a block of soap, would you be using an 'additive' method (adding bits on) or a 'subtractive' method (taking bits away)? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: In the space below, draw a design for a Freestanding sculpture of your favorite animal. Label two materials you would use to create interesting textures on its surface, such as 'rough bark' or 'smooth foil'.



Extension challenge: Find an object in your home that is three-dimensional. Write a short paragraph describing its form and texture. If it were a sculpture, would it be better placed on a wall or in the center of a room? Why?