

Exploring Form and Texture: The Art of Sculpture with Zara

Learning objective: To understand the techniques of additive and subtractive sculpture and explore how artists create form, texture, and balance in three-dimensional art.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of sculpture techniques and artistic vocabulary to provide detailed, thoughtful answers. Refer to the word bank to help you articulate your ideas.

Zara the zebra is designing a new sculpture garden. She is experimenting with different methods: building up shapes with clay (additive), carving into stone (subtractive), and using wire skeletons (armatures) to support her work. She wants her sculptures to have interesting textures that catch the sunlight and to ensure they are stable enough to stand outdoors.

Word bank: Additive · Subtractive · Armature · Form · Texture · Relief · Balance · Medium · Ephemeral · Malleable

1. Compare and contrast the 'additive' and 'subtractive' methods of sculpture. Give one example of a material suitable for each technique. (2 marks)

2. Explain why an artist might choose to build an armature before applying a medium like clay or papier-mâché. (2 marks)

3. Zara is creating a sculpture that needs to be balanced. Define 'balance' in the context of 3D art and explain why it is essential for a large-scale sculpture. (2 marks)

4. How can an artist manipulate the surface of a sculpture to create 'texture'? Justify why texture is important for the viewer's experience of the artwork. (2 marks)

5. What might happen if an artist chooses a medium that is not suitable for the environment where the sculpture will be displayed? Provide an example to support your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Sketch a design for a sculpture inspired by nature. Label your sketch to show where you would use 'additive' techniques and where you would incorporate 'texture'.



Extension challenge: Research a famous sculptor of your choice. Write a paragraph explaining their preferred medium and one technique they use to convey movement or emotion in their work. How does their style differ from your own sculpture design?