

# Design a Magical Sculpture

The Design a Magical Sculpture competition offers an introduction to sculpture particularly suited to Key Stage 2. These lesson notes are aimed at making children question what they understand about sculpture, and to open their minds. A worksheet has been designed to allow pupils to think about their ideas further. The worksheet encourages pupils to explore their own personal experience of what sculpture is or can be.

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## Objectives

1. This project aims to develop children's understanding of shape, form, texture and the qualities of different materials.
2. It aims to provide an opportunity for children to learn about the work of sculptors and about different kinds of sculpture, including those made of natural materials.
3. Children can design their own sculpture, thinking about the materials that could be used to construct it.

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## Resources

- Books and images showing work by famous sculptors
- Access to internet
- Sketch book
- Drawing equipment

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## Classroom discussion points and tasks

Begin with a classroom discussion to establish what children know about sculpture and to open their minds about the possibilities of designing a sculpture. Use the following questions to provoke discussion:

1. **What is sculpture?**  
Sculpture is often about the human body, but it can be about anything?
2. **Is sculpture usually large?**  
Talk about the scale of different sculptures. Look at Anthony Gormley's The Angel of the North.
3. **Do you have to be good at art to be a sculptor?**  
No not really, you just need a good imagination! Encourage children to challenge their imaginations!
4. **Sculpture is made from hard materials such as stone or metal.**  
Look at the work of famous sculptors and discuss the materials they have chosen to work with.

5. **Are sculptures permanent?**

Are ice sculptures and sand sculptures works of art? Discuss.

6. **Sculptures can be realistic or surreal!**

Barry Sykes, a sculptor who has sculpted animals out of wire for the Enchanted Wood, has created sheep that are so realistic the farm manager can tell the breed!

7. **Sculpture is something you usually see in museums or galleries...**

Sculptures can be anywhere - on the streets, on hillsides, in homes or in woods. Where is the most unusual place you've seen a sculpture?

Following your discussion, allow children to research sculpture by looking in the library, on the internet or with a trip to the Enchanted Wood at Stockeld Park.

Ask children to design a sculpture for the Enchanted Wood on an A4 sheet. Encourage them to make preliminary sketches of their ideas in their sketchbook. Ask them to think about form, scale, texture and colour. Ask them to also consider the appropriate use of materials their sculpture could be made from. Also think about the fact the sculpture will be outside in all weathers and has to last for a long time. Encourage children to draw in 3 dimensions and to annotate their designs with references to their choice of materials, method of construction etc.

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### Sources of research

- "What is Sculpture? (Art's Alive)" by Anne Civardi - an inspiring book all about sculpture aimed at primary children
- "Sculpture Today" By Judith Collins. Suggested further reading for teachers.
- "Hands On! Creative Projects" by The Henry Moore Foundation, ideas for creative projects offering examples of work by Moore
- Anthony Gormley - famous sculptor whose work includes the Angel of the North  
[www.anthonygormley.com](http://www.anthonygormley.com)
- [www.knowitall.org/artopia/sculpture/movie/](http://www.knowitall.org/artopia/sculpture/movie/) A one minute online video all about sculpture

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### National Curriculum links

**A1c** - Collect visual & other information to help develop their ideas, including using a sketchbook

**A2a** - Investigate and combine visual and tactile qualities of materials and processes and match these qualities to the purpose of the work

**A2b** - Apply their experience of materials and processes, including drawing, developing their control of tools and techniques

**A2c** - Use a variety of methods and approaches to communicate observations, ideas and feelings, and to design and make images and artefacts