

Starter Activity

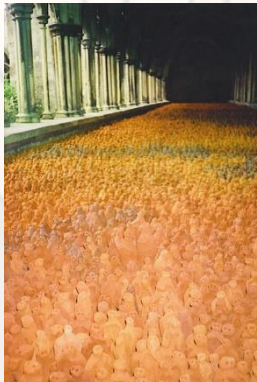


What is a sculpture?

Do you know the names of any famous sculptures or sculptors?

What is a sculpture?

Basically, it's a piece of art, in 3D!

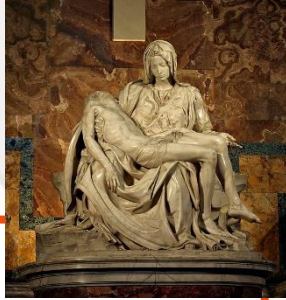


Which materials have been used to create these sculptures?



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Which materials have been used to create these sculptures?



Pieta

Materials: marble



Mount Rushmore
Materials: granite

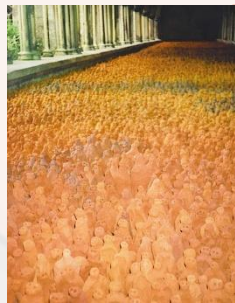


The Traffic Light Tree
Materials: metal, stone, clay, wood, plaster

Angel of the North
Materials: steel



The Runner
Materials: green glass



Field
Materials: terracotta



Alice in Wonderland
Materials: bronze

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Today you are going to be creating your own ritual bronze vessel. Ritual bronze vessels were more than just elegant objects of status, but symbols of power, commanding respect.

They were cast using ceramic piece molds, built around a clay model. The molds were imprinted with designs from the model, then the model was cut or carved down to allow for bronze to be poured in the empty space between the model and the molds.

Each piece was unique, since the ceramic piece molds had to be broken to release the bronze inside. The bronzes were used in rituals conducted by the ruling elite. These rituals required the use of wine vessels, water containers and food containers, for heating and serving purposes.



Using clay or salt dough

Any form of modelling clay is good for sculpting because it is very malleable before being heated. You can also paint and varnish it.

There are different types of clay such as porcelain clay, red clay and black clay. For our activity, we can use salt dough.



Tools activity

Investigate
the effect of
using
different
tools on
clay.



Techniques to try



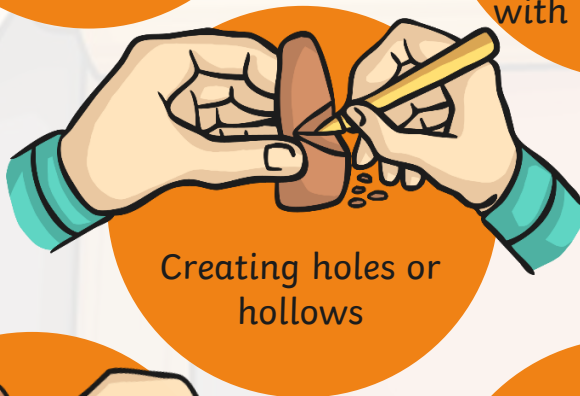
Rolling a ball of clay



Pulling and pinching the clay with your fingers



Rolling snakes with clay



Creating holes or hollows



Smoothing out the clay with your fingers



Adding pieces to my sculpture



Squeezing the clay



Scratching details with tools

Your task: Today you are going to be creating a Shang Dynasty ornament in the form of a statue. Use the recipe for salt dough on the next page as well as the images to inspire your design.



Ingredients

1 cupful of plain flour (about 250g)
half a cupful of table salt (about 125g)
half a cupful of water (about 125ml)

Method

1. Preheat the oven to its lowest setting and line a baking sheet with baking parchment.
2. Mix the flour and salt in a large bowl. Add the water and stir until it comes together into a ball.
3. Transfer the dough to a floured work surface and shape into your chosen model. You can roll it out and cut out shapes, numbers or letters using biscuit cutters, or make any kind of model you can think of. We made some fruit and veg shapes plus cupcakes for a teddy bear's picnic.
4. Put your finished items on the lined baking sheet and bake until solid. You may find that your dough could be done after just 30 minutes on a heat of 180 degrees C.

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