



Primary
Cross curricular

School grounds sculpture trail

Age: 8-11

Topic: Creating 3D work using different materials and increasing levels of skill



Overview

In this activity pupils will create a series of sculptures to be displayed in a trail around the school grounds. They will need to consider materials used, work together in small groups to create the works and as a whole class decide which works should be placed where. This sculpture trail will become available to other pupils, staff, parents and visitors to follow over a given number of days (depending on the materials used and how long it will last). A guide will be created to lead viewers around the trail.

Learning outcomes

- To create a work that shows skill in the choice and use of materials.
- To have observed and reviewed pupils' own work and those of others and to have made constructive comments about how they feel about the works.

Equipment

- A range of materials that may, or may not, survive well outside. This could include scrap materials of differing sizes.
- Pencils, paper and clipboards to help with planning and writing about the works.
- Simple maps of the school grounds.
- A camera to record the trail.

Did you know:

All around the country there are sculpture parks and trails you can visit and follow – places where artists have created outdoor works that could inspire your pupils. Search online to see if there is one near you.

Activity

1. Organise pupils into small groups. Each group will work on one piece and they will need a site for each piece to be located within the trail.
2. You can choose a theme for your trail – eg wildlife that lives in our grounds – or you may want pupils to work with abstract forms, or you could let the pupils decide for themselves.
3. Discuss the range of materials you have available. You may want to limit the number of items they can each use in their sculpture. Talk about how long the materials might last outside and what will happen to them over time, how to work safely, and how the sculptures can be displayed so that other people can view them.
4. Pupils will then create their sculptures. They will need to make notes about how they have chosen their subject and materials, how they have made design decisions and anything else they wish to tell people viewing their work. These notes will be edited to fill the guide.
5. Once all the works have been completed the whole class will work together to decide where each piece should be displayed. This might depend on the materials and if they need protection from the weather, the shape and form of the pieces, how near viewers can be allowed to the pieces or how the colours and materials fit the site.
6. The location of each work should be added to a map of the grounds – this could be added to a digital map or be scanned so that lots of copies of the map can be made for viewers.
7. Edit the notes written about how the pieces were made to create a guidebook for the trail.
8. Take a tour of the grounds and talk about what you like about each work.
9. Let others visit your sculpture trail before the weather damages the works (that may even be part of what you are trying to show).



Learning
through
Landscapes

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Further activities

Subject area	Suggested curriculum links	Potential outputs to show learning
Geography	Using and understanding maps	Adding the sculpture trail to the map and then following the map.
Language	Contributing to discussions	Share, respond to and evaluate arguments and discussions from a group with different points of view. Justify opinions.
Literacy	Writing for a specific audience.	Write descriptions about the artworks created. Think about who is going to read this.
	Writing, reviewing and editing	Working in groups review and edit your descriptions so that you create an interesting and clear guide for your trail.
Design and technology	Understanding the properties of materials	Choosing the right materials for the sculptures taking into consideration the weather, who is going to view the works and how long they will stay outside.
Computing	Using different computer programmes to create a guide for the trail	This could be a Word document with added images, a PowerPoint presentation or using a mapping tool to create a guide for visitors.



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