



## Sculpting Nature: Exploring 3D Art and Clay Creations in the Forest

### Inspired by Antony Gormley's *Field* – Our Forest People

#### Objective:

Students will explore Antony Gormley's *Field* as inspiration for creating their own clay figures in a woodland setting, reflecting on individuality and community. This activity fosters creativity, teamwork, and an appreciation of how art can represent people and connections.

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**Age Group:** Key Stage 2

**Duration:** 1.5-2 hours

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#### Links to National Curriculum:

- **Art and Design:**
    - Improve mastery of art and design techniques using clay.
    - Learn about significant artists and how their work relates to themes of identity and community.
  - **PSHE:**
    - Develop collaboration and teamwork skills.
    - Explore personal identity and the value of each individual in a community.
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#### Materials Needed:

- Natural, air-drying clay.
  - Small wooden boards or cloths to work on.
  - Twigs, stones, or leaves for added decoration or texture.
  - Images or printed materials showcasing Antony Gormley's *Field*.
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#### Activity Plan:

##### 1. Introduction to Antony Gormley's *Field* (15 minutes):

- **Showcase Gormley's *Field*:** Share photos or descriptions of the installation. Explain how it's made up of thousands of small clay figures, each representing individuality while forming a larger collective.
  - **Discussion Points:**
    - What do students notice about the figures?
    - How does the size, shape, and expression of each figure make it unique?
    - What do they think the artist was trying to convey about people and community?
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##### 2. Planning Their Figures (10 minutes):

- Ask students to imagine their figure:
    - What emotion or idea will it represent?
    - How will it be unique while also being part of the group?
  - Share that the figures will form a *Forest People* installation as part of the activity.
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### 3. Clay Sculpting (45 minutes):

- **Step 1:** Provide each student with a lump of clay and a workspace.
  - **Step 2:** Demonstrate simple techniques for shaping the body, head, and features of their figure.
  - **Step 3:** Allow them to add texture or decorations using natural materials like twigs for arms or stones for eyes.
  - Encourage students to make their figure reflect something about themselves (e.g., a favourite hobby or mood).
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### 4. Building the Collective Installation (20 minutes):

- Arrange all the figures together in a chosen forest spot to create a *Field*-inspired installation.
  - Discuss how the figures look as a group and how they reflect the class as a community.
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### 5. Reflection and Sharing (10 minutes):

- Invite students to share the story behind their figure.
  - Discuss the importance of individuality within a group.
  - Take photos of the installation as a memory and to share with parents or the wider school community.
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### Outcomes:

- Understanding of Antony Gormley's work and its themes of individuality and collective identity.
  - Improved clay modelling skills.
  - Development of self-expression and appreciation of teamwork.
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### Extension Ideas:

- Leave the installation in the forest temporarily for others to see, encouraging stewardship of the artwork and surroundings.
- Create a written reflection or poem inspired by their figure or the installation.
- Explore the impact of art in nature and discuss how art can be used to celebrate and protect the environment.

