

## Elephant under a Tower lesson plan



### National Curriculum: KS3 Art

A public sculpture by Andrew Burton. Elephant under a Tower by Andrew Burton was originally commissioned for the 1990 Gateshead Garden Festival site with two other sculptures by the artist. On the Garden festival site it was called Elephant under a Moroccan Edifice but the name was altered when re-sited at Newcastle Business Park. The sculpture is made in bronze.

### Learning Objectives

Pupils should understand the techniques of modelling and casting

### Overview

This lesson plan can be used to start a sculpture project. It helps develop ideas and understanding of processes and materials. It can also be used as part of study of any artist using casting as part of their process.

### Suggested Classroom Activity

#### Part 1.

Get your group to study the 3D version of the sculpture and try and work out what tools and materials the artist used to make this sculpture by going in close and examining the surface of the sculpture.

<https://sketchfab.com/models/f6bf654f100e49308b39af6ffce9cbc2>



Ask the class how they think it was made? A clue...it might have been made in one material first and then transformed into another.



Now show them this page in the Gateshead Garden Festival brochure Festival Landmarks that describe the Andrew Burton sculptures and include a quote from Andrew about his technique.

[https://www.culturestreet.org.uk/teachers/elephant\\_under\\_tower/gardenfestivalbrochure.pdf](https://www.culturestreet.org.uk/teachers/elephant_under_tower/gardenfestivalbrochure.pdf)

Now watch this film of a foundry at work.

[https://www.culturestreet.org.uk/flv/artstreetArtists/Joan%20Miro/Casting%20in%20bronze\\_1.mp4](https://www.culturestreet.org.uk/flv/artstreetArtists/Joan%20Miro/Casting%20in%20bronze_1.mp4)

## Part 2.

Ask your students to sketch a design for a sculpture of an elephant with one other object. The additional object could be anything at all but they will need to have some justification for the choice. Refer back to Andrew Burton's explanation in the Garden Festival brochure.



## Elephant Sculptures in different materials



## Part 3.

Using any material you have in your classroom get each student to make an elephant sculpture. Here are few other sculptures to give you ideas for techniques. Download the [ideas sheet](#)

## Development Activity

Study CultureStreet's section on [Miro](#) or [Antony Gormley](#) both of whom use casting in their work