Learning to be an artist

Henry first trained to be an artist at Leeds School of Art where he worked hard because he loved making sculptures and drawing. He made lots of new friends who all loved art as much as he did. In fact, he loved it so much that he enrolled for more study at the Royal College of Art in London.

Henry’s favourite thing about London was all of the museums and art galleries he could visit. He thought that the British Museum was the most exciting because it had art from all over the world. Henry really liked the sculptures from Mexico. One of these showed a figure lying on its back, which inspired him to make his own artworks.

Family Map

Can you see any sculptures that look like people lying down? We call these reclining figures. Henry liked making these a lot. How many can you find?

Your turn!

Have a go at creating something based on what you’ve seen.
- You could write a story, make a film or even make a virtual artwork in Minecraft! Here are some ideas:
  - While you’re visiting:
    - Take photos of your favourite sculptures. Experiment with taking pictures from different angles: in close up or through a sculpture.
    - Try sketching some of the sculptures, or the trees and natural forms in the gardens.
    - Pick a figure sculpture, who do you think they are? Imagine a personality for them, what would they tell you?
  - When you go home:
    - Ask if you can borrow some household objects to use as sculpture tools. What kind of marks and textures can you make in clay or playdough?
    - From your garden or on a walk, collect some natural objects that have an interesting shape and use them to make art.
    - Pick the pose of one of the sculptures you saw on your visit. Ask your siblings or an adult to draw you.
    - Swap places and take your turn to draw a living sculpture.

Henry the artist

When he had finished studying, Henry started to hold exhibitions of his drawings and sculptures. Some people thought his artworks were a little strange but a lot of people liked them because they were new and interesting. Before long, Henry became very famous and people all over the world wanted to buy his sculptures and see his exhibitions. He kept working for over fifty years making hundreds of sculptures – he was very busy!

Henry Moore loved nature, which is why he chose to live here in a small village and not in the town or city. He collected interesting stones, animal bones and tree roots on his walks in the fields and woods. He used these bumpy, twisted natural forms to inspire his sculptures.

Henry made carvings in stone and wood but he also made large sculptures that were cast in a metal called bronze. With bronze he could make really big sculptures which he could display outside – his favorite place. He could also add colour to the bronze to make it green, brown or gold.

Who was Henry Moore?
Growing up...

Henry Moore was born in 1898 in a small town in Yorkshire called Castleford. The main landmark in his town was a coalmine, where his father worked. Henry was fascinated by the big towering structures of the mine, but he really loved getting out of town. Near his house, the countryside is filled with big craggy rocks, which he climbed and played on with his friends and family at weekends. Henry had a big family – seven brothers and sisters!

Try moving around the sculptures. Do they look the same from all angles? Try and look from far away and close up.

If you want to touch the sculptures outside, you can but be very careful, especially if you are wearing anything scratchy. Please don’t climb on them. Use only your hands and beware – in summer they can get very hot!

Take a look at henry-moore.org/learning-and-engagement for more ideas.
Eye-spy sculptures

Hoglands
- Working Model for Sundial, Bronze, 1965
- Family Group, Bronze, 1948–49
- Goslar Warrior, Bronze, 1973–74
- Three Piece Reclining Figure, Bronze, 1975
- Upright Motive No.5, Bronze, 1955–56

Pear Tree Paddock
- Double Oval, Bronze, 1966
- Family Group, Bronze, 1948–49
- Knife Edge Two Piece, Bronze, 1962–65
- Three Piecesculpture: Vertebrae, Bronze, 1968-69
- Reclining Mother and Child, Bronze, 1967
- Torso with Point, Bronze, 1967

Meadow
- The Arch, Bronze, 1963/69
- Walk from Visitor Centre, under 10 mins
- Reclining Figure, Angles, Bronze, 1979
- Walk from Visitor Centre, under 10 mins
- Hill Arches, Bronze, 1973
- Woman, Bronze, 1957–58, cast 1960

Elmwood Garden
- Seated Woman, Bronze, 1958–59, cast 1975
- Square Form with Cut, Cast concrete, 1969
- Large Figure in a Shelter, Bronze, 1985–86

Sheep Field
- Large Reclining Figure, Bronze, 1984
- Walk from Visitor Centre, under 20 mins
- Large Upright Internal/External Form, Bronze, 1953–54, cast 1981–82
- Walk from Visitor Centre, under 20 mins
- Sheep Piece, Bronze, 1971–72

Sculpture Lawn
- Oval with Points, Bronze, 1968–70
- Draped Reclining Figure, Bronze, 1962–53
- Two Piece Reclining Figure: Cut, Bronze, 1979–81
- Knife Edge Two Piece, Bronze, 1962–65
- Three Piecesculpture: Vertebrae, Bronze, 1968-69
- Reclining Mother and Child, Bronze, 1967
- Torso with Point, Bronze, 1967