

Adapting AccessArt: Plinth People

By Charlotte Puddephatt

In the '[Adapting AccessArt](#)' series, we will be spotlighting teachers who have used AccessArt resources to develop their own pathways.

In this post, Charlotte Puddephatt, a teacher at Sheffield High School, shares with us how she adapted the AccessArt resource [Plinth People: Sculptural Self-Portraits](#) for her Year 3 class to support her school's submission to the [Take One Picture](#) exhibition in 2025.

The Take One Picture exhibition opened at the National Gallery in June. Now in its 30th year, the painting that inspired this year's artwork from children around the UK is [Courtyard of a House in Delft](#) by the Dutch painter, [Peter de Hooch](#). This project involved three one-hour sessions for making, followed by two additional sessions to create the backdrop.

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This Project Uses The Following Resources...

Plinth people: Sculptural Self Portraits



Quick Clay Figurative Sketches



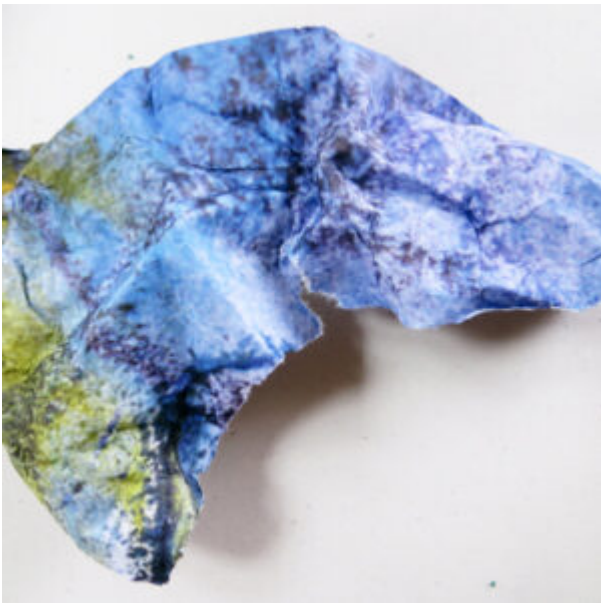
Talking With Your Hands

“Acts of Kindness” Workshop

Adapting AccessArt: From 2D to 3D

You May Also Like

Manipulating Paper: Turning 2D into 3D



Making Prompt cards



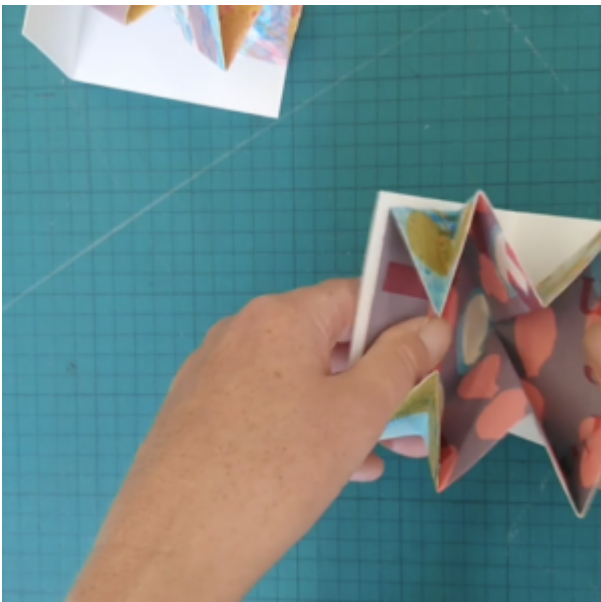
playful making pathway



ASTRONAUT PAPER BODY CASTS



Turkish map fold



**Adapting AccessArt: Playful Making
Inspired by Nnena Kalu**



AccessArt Olympics: Sculptural Sneakers

[<<Explore Other Olympic Themes](#)

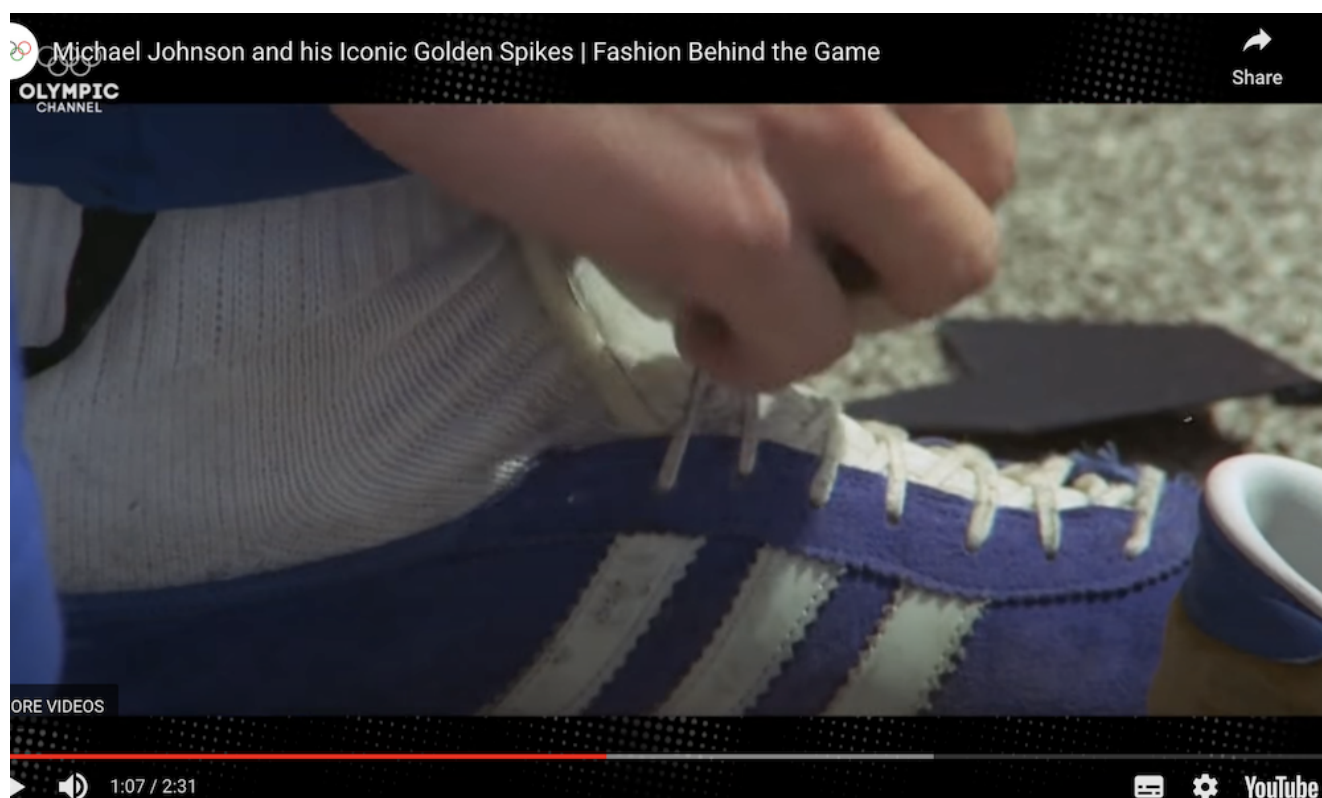
Explore the project below to help pupils consider how they might design trainers based on either Olympic [Athletics](#).

Trainer Design

Aim: To introduce pupils to shoe design with a focus on athletics and trainers. Pupils will get the opportunity to explore innovation and design through drawing and making.

Step 1: Introduce in Sketchbooks

Begin by introducing pupils to trainer design with the “[Talking Points: Trainer Design](#)” resource. Show them a series of videos which aim to prompt discussion around innovation, design and environmental implications of shoe design. Invite pupils to create “[Visual Notes](#)” in their sketchbooks inspired by what they see.



Step 2: Drawing and Sketchbooks

Place a trainer on each table. Invite pupils to create their own “[Folded Sketchbook](#)” and set them drawing challenges by adapting the “[Using a Folded Sketchbook to Get Drawing](#)” using the shoe as the subject matter. For each different drawing exercise swap the shoes around.

Next, invite pupils to make annotations and adjustments to their drawings based on any invented shoe technology they would like to add to their trainers.



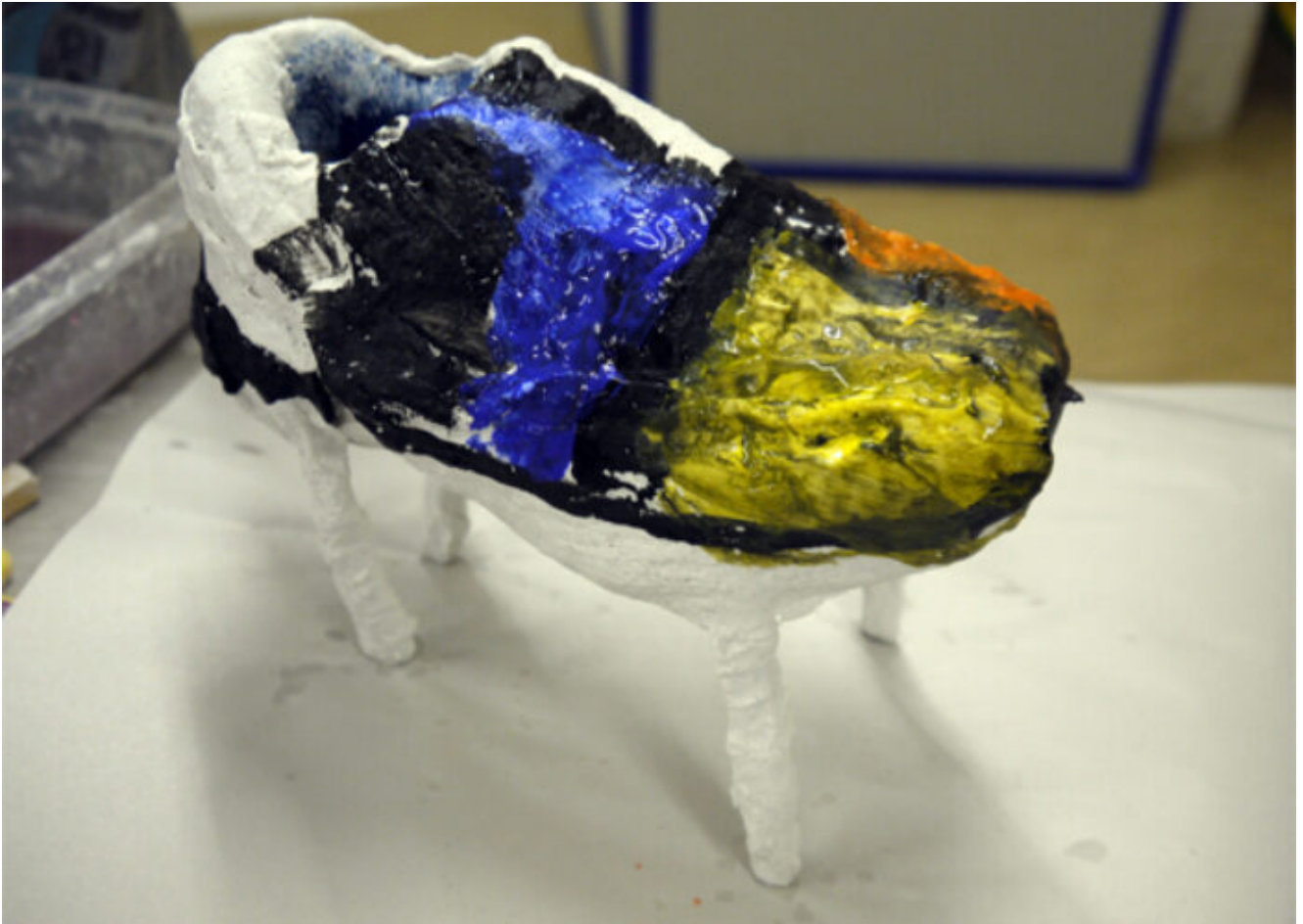
Step 3: Making

Use air-dry clay to create trainers using the “[Shoe La-La](#)” resource. Bring in trainers as inspiration for the clay shoes. Use some of the techniques from the last step to build up the shoes.



Or..

You may like to try creating “[Sculptural Modroc Shoes](#)” instead. Ask children to bring in old trainers, or pick up some from charity shops to use at the base for new trainer designs. Make additional features by [creating small armatures](#) and incorporating them into the shoe design.



Step 4: Reflect

[Use the resource here to help you run a class "crit" to finish the project.](#)

Invite children to display the work in a clear space on tables or on the wall. Recap with them about the exploration – where they started, what they discovered and what they enjoyed.

If you have class cameras or tablets, invite the children to document their work, working in pairs or teams.



ACCESSART OLYMPIC RESOURCES

AGES 5-8

AGES 9-11

AGES 11-14

Materials:

Trainers as subject matter

Sketchbooks

A2 Paper

Drawing materials

For Shoe La-La:

Air-drying clay

Rolling pins

Burlap/hessian mat

Wooden battens

Tools for clay

Clay Slip (mix a lump of clay with water to create a creamy consistency and store in a jar with a sealed lid)

Acrylic Paint

PV Glue

For Sculptural Modroc Shoes:

Modroc

An old trainer

Acrylic Paint

Extra materials such as lollysticks or newspaper to make armatures

PVA glue

Adaptations:

You could look into shoe design for sports that don't require trainers, for example dancing shoes or winter sports shoes.

Explore Other Resources in Athletics:



Making Medals



Sporting Sculptures

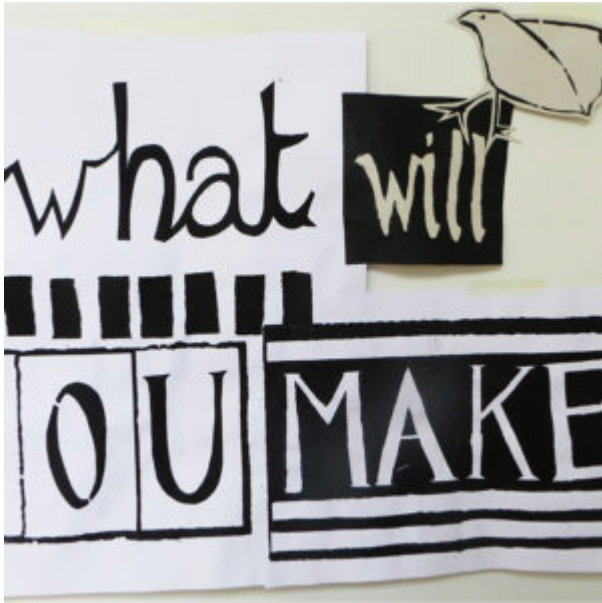


Sportswear Design

Explore other olympic themes
history



Values



ceremony



Talking Points: Trainer
Design

A collection of imagery and sources designed to explore trainer design.

Please note that this page contains links to external websites and has videos from external websites embedded. At the time of creating, AccessArt checked all links to ensure content is appropriate for teachers to access. However, external websites and videos are updated and that is beyond our control.

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This resource is free to access and is not a part of AccessArt membership.

AGES 5-8

AGES 9-11

AGES 11-14

FREE TO ACCESS

Trainer Design

Explore the resources below to start discussions based on design, innovation and the environmental implications of trainer design.

Golden Trainers

Questions to Ask Children

What are the features of these track shoes?

Do you like the gold shoes? Why?

What colour would you like your trainers to be if you were an Olympian?

Tinker Hatfield: Footwear Design

Find highlights of the documentary by exploring the suggested clips below:

Innovation: Predicting Needs for the Future

- Minute 7:41 – 11:23

- Minute 16:00 – 18:45

- Minute 24:36 – 26:20

- Minute 36:36 – 38:00

Working with Athletes

- Minute 19:33 – 24:36

- Minute 27:33 – 29:04

Questions to Ask Children

Which shoe did you like the best? Why?

How can trainer design help with sports performance?

If you could invent some shoes right now, what would they do? Who would they be for?

Sustainability

Find out how manufacturing trainers impacts our environment.

See how design innovation can provide solutions to ease the environmental impact of shoes.

Questions to Ask Children

In pairs, invent some sustainable alternatives that you could use to replace the toxic chemicals used in the production of trainers, e.g. fabrics made from grass – get creative with your

inventions!

You May Also Like...

AccessArt Olympic resources



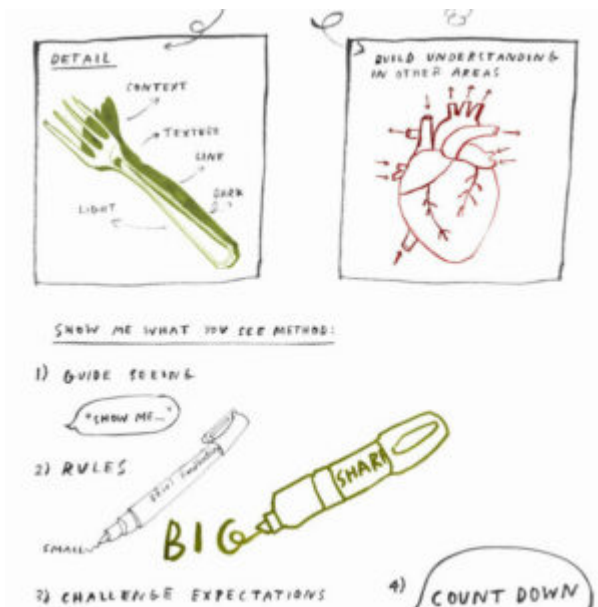
[Explore projects to celebrate the 2024 Olympics](#)

Visual Notes



Find out how pupils can respond to artists work in sketchbooks

Show me what you see



Enable close looking and drawing with this exercise

AccessArt Olympics: Sporting Sculptures

<<Explore Other Olympic Themes

Explore the project below to help pupils create a sculptural figure inspired by Olympic [Athletics](#).

Sporting Sculptures

Aim: To introduce pupils to the work of sculptors and painters inspired by human form with a focus on athleticism. Pupils will get the opportunity to create figurative drawings and develop their work through to sculpture.

Step 1: Introduce

Begin by introducing pupils to the sculptures made by Rosa Serra, commissioned for the Seoul 1988 Olympics, with “[Talking points: Rosa Serra](#)”.

Invite pupils to create “[Visual Notes](#)” in their sketchbooks inspired by the information they see.



Use “[Drawing Source Material: Athletes in Action](#)” material for pupils exploring the human form during sports. In the first instance you might want to pause the videos as suitable points to enable the children to carefully look at the main forms and details.

Encourage close and slow looking by talking as they draw – use your voice to attract their attention to features of the athletes.

Invite pupils to draw what they can see in their sketchbooks. See “[Show Me What You See](#)” to find out how to run the guided session.



Step 2: Drawing and Sketchbooks

Start the session by introducing choreographer and painter Serge Lifar to pupils using “[Talking Points: Serge Lifar](#)”. Use the questions to prompt discussions about how he captures moving forms through line and colour.

Follow on by using the “[Exaggerating To Communicate](#)” resource to help children draw from life, and explore how we might use exaggeration as a tool to help us convey the intention of our drawing. Invite children to get into a position relating to a sport they like or they saw in the [Drawing Source Material](#) above. You might like to introduce props.

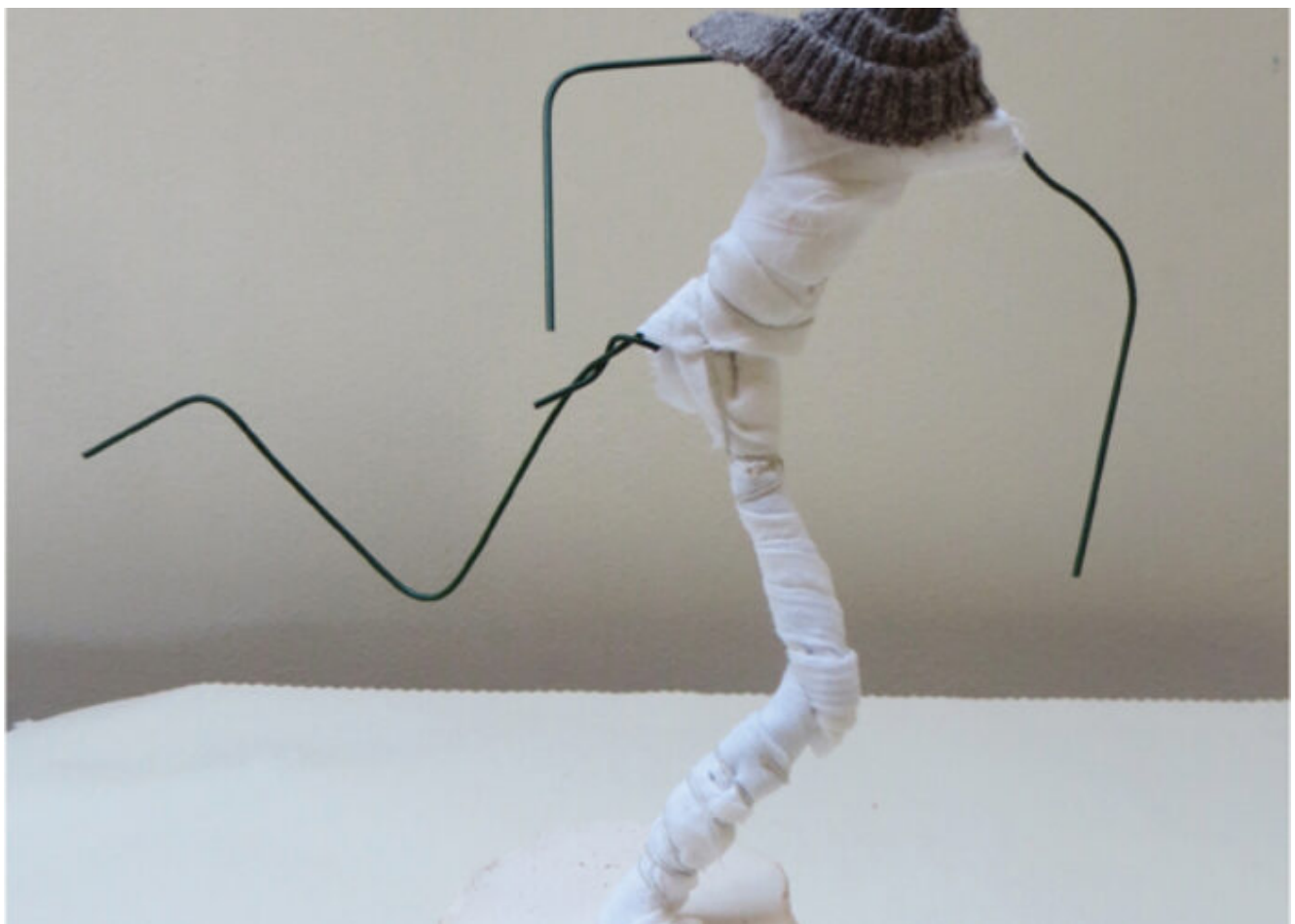


Step 3: Making

Follow on by adapting the “[Plinth People](#)” resource, inspired by the work done so far.

Invite pupils to think about a movement they would like to capture in their sculptures and whether this is reflected in a particular sport.

Encourage pupils to think about how they can bring exaggerated form, colour and shape to their sculptures.



Step 4: Reflect

[Use the resource here to help you run a class “crit” to finish the project.](#)

Invite children to display the work in a clear

space on tables or on the wall. Recap with them about the exploration – where they started, what they discovered and what they enjoyed.

If you have class cameras or tablets, invite the children to document their work, working in pairs or teams.



ACCESSART OLYMPIC RESOURCES

AGES 9-11

AGES 11-14

Materials:

Sketchbooks

A3 Cartridge Paper

Drawing materials

Watercolour

Soft wire

Wire cutters

Plaster for the plinth

Cardboard

Scrap fabric strips

PVA glue

Adaptations:

If you are working with younger children and would prefer to use modroc instead of clay you can adapt the “[Friendship Tower](#)” resource.

Explore Other Resources in Athletics:



Making Medals



Sculptural Sneakers

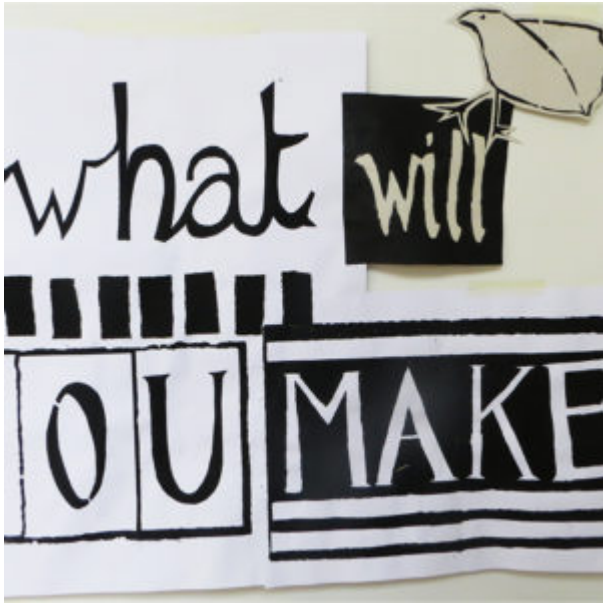


Sportswear Design

Explore other olympic themes
history



Values



ceremony



**AccessArt Olympics: Making
Medals**

[<<Explore Other Olympic Themes](#)

Explore the project below to help pupils consider how they might design an Olympic and Paralympic Medal based on either [Athletics](#), [History](#) or [Olympic Values](#).

Medal Design

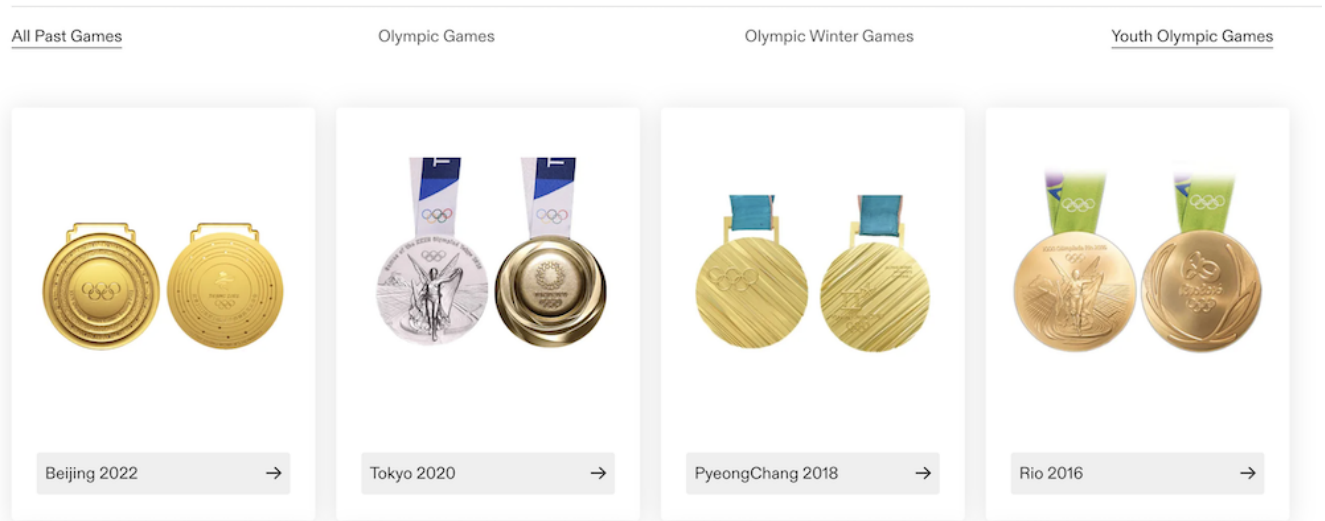
Aim: To introduce pupils to the Olympic and Paralympic Medals. Pupils will get the opportunity to design and make their own medals through drawing and sculpture.

Step 1: Introduce in Sketchbooks

Consider asking pupils to make an Olympic project sketchbook using one of the “[Making Sketchbooks](#)” resources.

Begin by introducing pupils to medals designed for the Olympics and Paralympics with “[Talking Points: Olympic and Paralympic Medals](#)”. Invite pupils to create “[Visual Notes](#)” in their sketchbooks inspired by the information they see.

ALL MEDALS



Step 2: Drawing and Sketchbooks

Use the medals from the previous session as inspiration for “[Making Money! Drawing and Making](#)”. Adapt the resource slightly, inviting pupils to design a medal for their own Olympics/Paralympics. You may like to focus the design process by making links to your local area or individual values/personalities.



Step 3: Making

Make connections between 2D and 3D by transforming the drawn medal designs in clay.

Adapt the "[Clay Portrait Miniatures](#)" resource to accommodate the focus of the project. Pupils might like to create medals to celebrate their favourite sport or hobby.



Step 4: Reflect

[Use the resource here to help you run a class "crit" to finish the project.](#)

Invite children to display the work in a clear space on tables or on the wall. Recap with them about the exploration – where they started, what they discovered and what they enjoyed.

If you have class cameras or tablets, invite the children to document their work, working in pairs or teams.



ACCESSART OLYMPIC RESOURCES

AGES 5-8

AGES 9-11

Materials:

Sketchbooks

A3/A2 Paper

Drawing materials

Foam board

Card template

Air-drying clay

Rolling pins

Burlap/hessian mat

Wooden battens

Tools for clay

Clay Slip ([see preparation in advance](#))

Soft wire to make a hanging loop

Wire cutters

Small pliers

Adaptations:

You may like to include a historical context, for example Ancient Greece. Use the "[Clay Art Medals](#)" resource and create profiles on the medals inspired by [Ancient Greek coins](#).

If you would like to explore [the Values](#) of the Olympics you might like to look at War Medals to see how medals can be designed to represent a specific Value.

Explore Other Resources in Values:



Mascot Design



Friendship Towers



[An Olympic Poster](#)

Explore other olympic themes
history



Athletics



ceremony



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Modroc Plasterboard

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How to use modroc



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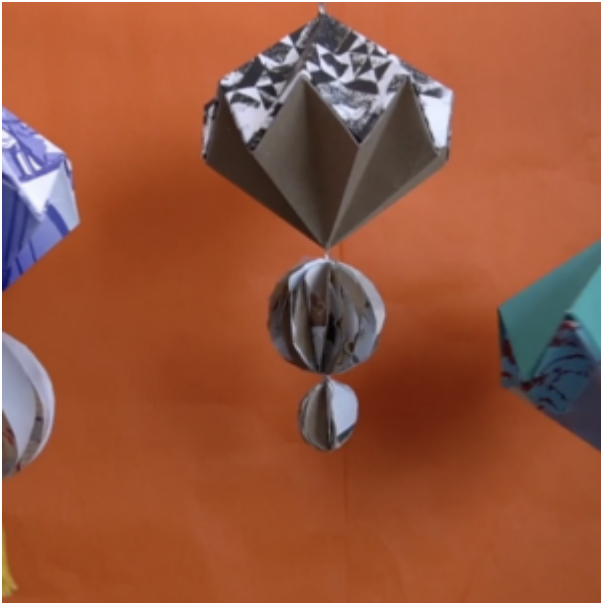
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CPD Recording: Exploring Modroc

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accessart modroc resources



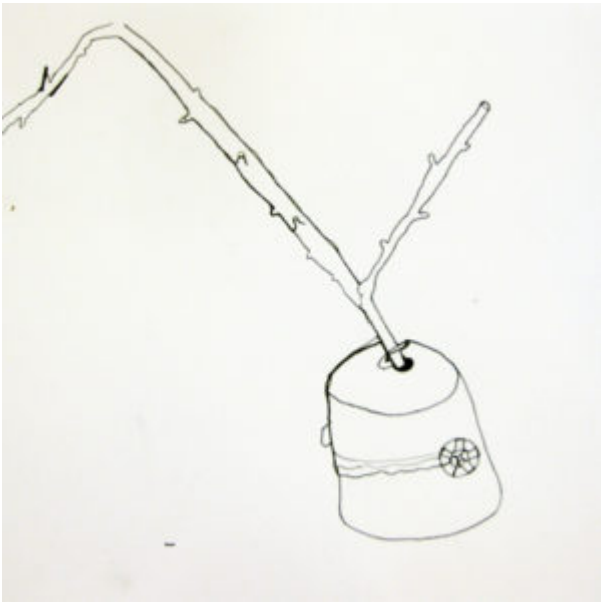
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