

Year 6 Art: Mayan Artefacts

Recreating Mayan tiles and stelae in clay

Subject Specific Vocabulary

sculpture	The art of making 3D forms especially by carving stone or wood or by casting metal or plaster.
3D form	A form is a three-dimensional figure — as opposed to a shape, which is two-dimensional, or flat.
ceramics	The art of making three dimensional objects from clay.
pattern	A design that is created by repeating lines, shapes, tones or colours.
score	To scratch hatch marks on clay.
slip	A liquid mixture of clay and water.
wedging	Kneading the clay with hands to force out air pockets and create a uniform texture.
glyphs	The symbols used to write the Mayan language.

Key Skills

- Plan and design a sculpture.
- Use materials to carve, and add shape, texture and pattern.
- Develop cutting and joining skills, e.g. using slabs and slips.
- Use malleable materials, including clay, to create a 3D sculpture.
- Use key vocabulary to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of sculpture, e.g. texture, join, construct, observation, structure, sculptor.



Sticky Knowledge

- The Maya were very artistic. They were skilled at various types of stone, especially pottery and carving stone.
- A Maya stela is a huge stone slab with Maya glyphs and drawings on it. Some historians refer to these ancient stone structures as stone trees.
- The Maya created a writing system using symbols or glyphs.
- The Maya writing system had about 700 glyphs.