

## The life and work of Henry Moore

Henry Moore was born on 30th July 1898 in Castleford in Yorkshire. Moore's best known works are large sculptures. These are usually abstract versions of the human figure and often contain hollow spaces.

His sculptures are often public artworks and are located all over the world. The large holes in the sculptures mean that parts of the landscape can be seen through them. The natural lines in a landscape compliment his sculptures. Moore's sculptures were inspired by natural forms such as shells, bones and pebbles. He would mix the human figure and these natural forms to create his ideas.

During World War 2 Henry Moore was commissioned as a war artist. When war broke out Moore abandoned sculpture for drawing. This work transformed Henry Moore's reputation and he achieved success both at home and internationally. He produced a series of drawings of Londoners using the London Underground as an air raid shelter during the Blitz. Even in his drawings Henry Moore uses lines to exaggerate and emphasise the lines and shapes of the human form.

Angered by their poverty, Moore described the crowds he had witnessed sheltering from bombing raids in the London Underground as "the most pathetic, sordid, & disheartening sight". Moore wanted to capture the dire situation that the people were faced with everyday. Despite this, many felt that Moore's drawings of generalised masses of anonymous figures transformed London's poor into heroic figures - displaying how even in uncertain times they pushed through this hardship as one.

In 1972 the largest exhibition of Moore's work to date was staged by the British Council and opened by Princess Margaret in the exquisite setting of the Forte di Belvedere, Florence. The British Council remained unrelenting in the promotion of Moore, who they championed more than any other artist.

Despite his great success and wealth; Henry Moore did not often spend his money on himself. Moore instead set up and funded the Henry Moore Foundation which today still funds and supports many projects within the arts.

A video to supplement this lesson can be found on YouTube on the channel Miss Linehan Primary Art. Look for Year 5 – Henry Moore – Lesson 1.



## The life and work of Henry Moore

- 1) Where and when was Henry Moore born?  
Henry Moore was born...
- 2) What type of work is Henry Moore best known for?  
Henry Moore is best known for...
- 3) What inspired Henry Moore's sculptures?  
Henry Moore's sculptures were inspired by...
- 4) What happened to Henry Moore during the war?  
During the war Henry Moore...
- 5) What did Henry Moore want to capture in his war drawings?  
In his war drawings Henry Moore wanted to capture...
- 6) Why do you think Henry Moore wanted to show how poorly the people were having to survive in the war?  
Henry Moore wanted to show how poorly the people were having to survive because...
- 7) Why do you think Henry Moore's drawings turned the general public into heroes?  
Henry Moore wanted to show how poorly the people were having to survive because...
- 8) What type of person can we understand Henry Moore was from the last paragraph and give evidence of a quote from the text to prove this.  
Henry Moore was...

### Thinking deeper

Research some information about the Henry Moore Foundation and what it does to support the arts still today.

### Drawing task

Select one of Henry Moore's artworks and copy either the whole artwork or an interesting section from it. Look carefully at the lines used to describe the human form.

