

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Moore for Kids Activity: Found Object Sculpture

Materials

- Variety of natural materials (seeds, leaves, twigs, hay, dried flowers, feathers)
- Collection bag
- Markers or crayons
- Clay or play dough

How To

1. Henry Moore was a famous artist who created beautiful sculptures inspired by nature. Often he would use natural objects directly in his initial sculptures. For example, he created some of his sculptures by starting with a real animal bone and then adding clay to it until it resulted in the shape and texture he had envisioned.
2. Explore the photographs of the Henry Moore sculptures at www.nybg.org. Where do you think Moore got the ideas for his art? What do the sculptures look like to you? Do any of the pictures look like objects that might be found in nature?
3. Go on a nature walk and explore and collect different natural elements such as leaves, twigs, and rocks. Look at clouds and trees and see if the shapes remind you of anything else? Which collected objects are your favorites? Why? What patterns and shapes do you see?
4. Act like Henry Moore and use some of the objects you found on the nature walk and clay to create a sculpture. What happens when you add clay to some of the objects? What happens if you press the objects into the clay and then remove them from the clay? What other ways can you think of to use the clay and objects in your sculpture?