1

Art in Nature

Look at this photograph of a sculpture made by an artist called Andy Goldsworthy.



He has made the shape out of leaves from a horsechestnut tree. He has used thorns to hold them together. The sculpture is in the woods where it was made.

Andy Goldsworthy: Inspired by nature

All of Andy Goldsworthy's sculptures are like this, made out of the things he finds in nature and nothing else. He only uses fallen or dying materials and never takes them away from where he finds them.

He builds towers or arches with flat stones. He weaves with branches. He makes patterns out of sticks and plant stalks.

He doesn't carry a bag of tools and he doesn't buy his materials. Instead, he goes empty-handed to a suitable place and works with nature. He often starts work hours before daylight.

Instead of using glue, he uses the early morning dew or frost. Instead of using nails or pins, he uses thorns.

Have you ever made a daisy chain or floated leaves down a stream? Well that is the kind of way Andy Goldsworthy works. He is an artist with the curiosity of a child and a deep understanding of nature.

Artists like Andy Goldsworthy are called 'environmental sculptors'. This means they make sculptures without causing any damage to nature or the environment. It is a different way of working from most artists.

Some more examples of Andy Goldsworthy's work



Dead but still standing
Made with plant stalks from the previous year.

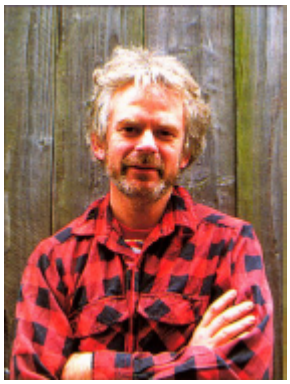


Late evening calm
Made from poppy petals held with water to a horsechestnut leaf.



Balanced Slates

Andy Goldsworthy



Some facts

- **He was born in Cheshire in 1956 but grew up near Leeds**
- **He went to Bradford and Lancaster Art Colleges.**
- **He has lived in Scotland for the past 11 years.**
- **He is married with four children**
- **His only hobby is fishing**

Try it yourself





Anyone can have a go at being an environmental sculptor. All that you need is a place which has lots of interesting plants, trees, earth or rocks.

A visit to a park, wood, forest, rocky place, the beach or even the school playground, will provide all of the materials.

Here are some suggestions of things to make and do, using nature's materials.

- Try weaving long grasses into something.
- Use thorns to attach twigs, plant stalks and leaves into patterns on the ground or along a tree trunk.
- Arrange loose, large pieces of wood or branches in an interesting and unusual way.
- Float leaves, twigs or dying flower petals on pools, streams or puddles.

You might like to keep a record of your sculpture.

Take a photograph or do a simple drawing of the sculpture and write a description of it.

Think about:

– how it is arranged;
– what material the sculpture is made from;
– how the sculpture fits with its environment;
– a title for it.

2 1. Tick the correct option to complete the sentence below.

Andy Goldsworthy's work comes from

Tick **one.**

cities. ☐

nature. ☐

books. ☐

museums. ☐

1 mark

2. (a) What does Andy Goldsworthy do with the dew, frost and thorns?

_____

_____

1 mark

(b) Why is it important that he uses the dew, frost and thorns instead of other materials?

_____

_____

_____

2 marks

3. *He is as artist with the **curiosity** of a child...*

Give the meaning of the the word *curiosity* in this sentence.

_____

1 mark

4. Why does the article ask the reader:

Have you ever made a daisy chain or floated leaves down a stream?

_____

_____

2 marks

5. (a) Which section gives you information about Andy Goldsworthy's life, rather than his work?

Tick **one.**

Try it Yourself	☐
Examples of Children's Work	☐
Some Facts	☐
Some More Examples of Andy Goldsworthy's Work	☐

1 mark

(b) Explain why the article gives this information about his life.

_____

_____

1 mark

Look at the information *Try it Yourself* to help you answer these questions.

6. *Float leaves, twigs or dying flower petals on pools, streams or puddles.*

Why does the article suggest that the flower petals should be ***dying***?

_____

_____

2 marks

7. (a) How does the article suggest you could keep a record of any sculptures you might make?

Give **three** ways.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

1 mark

(b) Why might you want to keep some sort of record of your sculpture?

_____

_____

1 mark

8. After reading this article, would you like to have a go at being an environmental sculptor yourself?

yes ☐ no ☐

Explain your answer as fully as you can, using the text to help you.

_____

_____

_____

2 marks

Mark schemes

2 1 Award **1 mark** for: *nature*

1 mark

2 (a) Award **1 mark** for any answer which refers to these materials as being the adhesives which hold Goldsworthy's sculptures together. Also accept direct copying from the text.

- *Instead of using glue, he uses the early morning dew or frost. instead of using nails or pins, he uses thorns because the dew and frost are wet*
- *he uses them to stick things together and the thorns have sharp edges so he won't have to use sticky tape*
- *he uses them to stick things together*
- *he uses them as glues*
- *Andy Goldsworthy uses them to hold the patterns he has made together*
- *he uses them to make his sculptures*

1 mark

(b) Award **2 marks** for answers which give a full explanation of how Goldsworthy's approach is one which requires that he only use natural resources.

- *he uses them so that he can work with nature and not use man-made things*
- *instead of using glues, nails and things, he uses dew, frost and thorns because they are all natural because all of his sculptures are natural and he doesn't want to use anything that might cause damage*

Award **1 mark** for a simple explanation or for a literal interpretation.

- *so that he doesn't damage anything*
- *because he is an environmental sculptor*
- *because you don't get glue and nails in forests*

up to 2 marks

3 Award **1 mark** for an answer that refers to inquisitiveness.

e.g. It means he wants to find out.

He wants to know.

1 mark

4 Award **2 marks** for answers which suggest the question is an invitation to the reader to think more about Goldsworthy's work in terms of their own behaviour.

- *it is the kind of thing lots of people might have done and so it helps you to understand what Goldsworthy does*
- *the writer wants to try and make the reader think about environmental sculpture for themselves*

Award **1 mark** for answers which give some indication of this idea.

- *to make you think*
- *because lots of people have actually done that*

up to 2 marks

5 (a) Award **1 mark** for: *Some Facts*

1 mark

(b)
- because you might want to know more about him and his life so that you can do the same things that he did
- *so that everybody can get a good idea of what kind of a man he really is and why he is so inspired by nature*
- *it tells you more about him as a real person*
- *because he has an interesting life and job*
- *it makes him seem like a more interesting person*

Do not accept

- *it makes the article more interesting*
- *so you know more about him*

1 mark

6 Award **2 marks** for full answers which provide an explanation in terms of the ideas underlying environmental sculpture; the processes and materials should not damage nature and therefore only fallen or dying materials should be used.

- *because if you pick living petals you will kill the plants. If you use petals that have fallen off the plant then you won't spoil the environment*
- *because if you take living ones then you are going to be damaging the flower and nature*
- *because you should only use natural materials which are fallen or dying so that you don't cause any harm*

Award **1 mark** for partial or literal explanations.

- *because you can't use living things*
- *because then you don't kill the plant*
- *because environmental sculpture is about using dead things*
- *because you only use fallen or dying materials*

up to 2 marks

7 (a) Award **1 mark** if **all three** of the following correct responses are given:

- *(take a) photograph*
- *(do a simple) drawing*
- *(write a) description*

1 mark

(b) Award **1 mark** for answers which address the ephemeral nature of environmental sculpture and/or the permanency of such a record.

- *so that you will always have something to remind you of your sculpture*
- *because a photograph or picture will last forever*
- *because environmental sculptures do not last for very long but you can keep a record for a long time*

1 mark

8 Award **2 marks** for answers in which the opinion (either *yes* or *no*), is supported by reference to an aspect(s) of the text or its overall extent of appeal, and an explanation of its relevance is given. For example:

- *yes, because I like making things, especially with nature and you don't have to pay for anything*
- *yes, because you don't spoil the environment and it would be fun*
- *yes, because it could be great to try using thorns for pins and dew for glue*
- *no, because I think it could be hard work and wouldn't like to get up hours before daylight every day*

Award **1 mark** for simple answers which depend on personal likes/dislikes, but which have only a general relationship to the text.

- *no, because I am not into nature much*
- *no, because you would have to be in the cold all day*
- *yes, because I would like to create things like that*

Do not accept:

- *yes, because it's interesting*
- *yes, because I would like to be a sculptor myself*

up to 2 marks