

The Fourth Plinth

If you have ever been on a trip to Trafalgar Square in London, you will have seen a statue of Admiral Horatio Nelson on top of a huge column. When the statue was built, people thought that Admiral Nelson was a national hero because he defeated Napoleon, the French military leader, at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 (that's why this place is called Trafalgar Square). However, Admiral Nelson was also a strong defender of the slave trade, so this statue has also become a bit controversial. Here is a picture:



Some people think it is better to just leave statues from the past where they are, even if we have now come to think that some of the things the person did or said were wrong. What do you think?

Around Trafalgar Square, there are four 'plinths' (big stone bases) for statues. Three of them have statues on them but one of them was left empty because no one could decide who to put on it!

Instead of putting a statue on it, it has become a tradition to have different sculptures on it every two years. Here are some pictures of some of the sculptures that have been on it:





Do you think it's a good idea to have a sculpture instead of a statue on the plinth? Do you have a favourite?

Every year, the Mayor of London has a competition for school children to create their own designs for a fourth plinth sculpture. The mayor then holds a big exhibition of the best ones.

You can see a gallery of this year's competition entries here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/arts-and-culture/art-and-design/fourth-plinth/fourth-plinth-schools-awards-2020/gallery>

Challenge

Have a go at creating your own design for a fourth plinth sculpture. You could use Lego, plasticine, or anything else that you have available. You could also just do a drawing if you would prefer.

Place your model on the photo below and take a picture of it. You could then add a description to explain your design.

R4 – THE EMPTY FOURTH PLINTH

