

THE SCULPTURE PROJECT

PASSAGE OF WIND & WATER

Essential Question for this lesson:

What can we discover when visiting *The Sculpture Project: Passage of Wind & Water?*

Before you visit Main Street Square:

The Sculpture Project: Passage of Wind and Water at Main Street Square is at the heart of Downtown Rapid City. The \$2 million work is one of the largest privately funded public art commissions underway in the United States!

When you visit Main Street Square in Rapid City, you will be able to explore this project and think about the ideas the art communicates to visitors.

This project is divided into two main parts. The stones that run along Sixth Street are called the Black Hills Garden. Along Main Street, you will see the Badlands Garden. As the sculptor works, visitors to Main Street Square will see the process of transforming ancient granite into art!

Project artist Masayuki Nagase was chosen by a group of community members through a long selection process. He will carve the granite during the summer months over the next several years.

The artist has developed a design that explores and expresses aspects of the rich natural and cultural history of the Black Hills and Badlands. The main visual themes of his design are based on the natural elements of wind and water. He sees these elements as basic energy and forces of nature that bring and sustain life. Through community design workshops, Nagase gathered ideas from people of all ages that he added to his design.

While you are at Main Street Square, you can use the next pages to record your thinking about this project and the ideas behind it!

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While you are at Main Street Square: Thinking About the Project

*Please write your thoughts about the questions below. We are looking for your **original thinking**: what actually comes into your mind as you carefully read the questions. Your answers may be clear bullet points or clear, complete sentences.*

1. Walk along the exterior of the entire project, from the Badlands Garden (where carving has already happened) all the way past the Black Hills Garden. What do you notice about the shapes and colors of the granite?

2. Walk along the interior of the entire project now. What do you notice that seems different about being in the interior of the project as opposed to walking around the exterior?

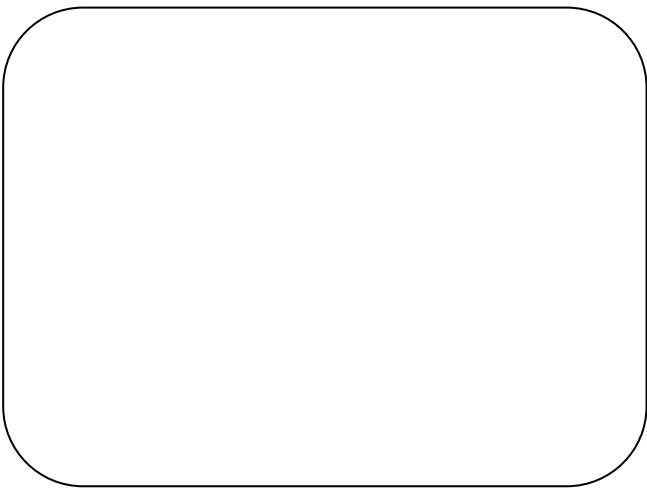
3. Read the information board about the Badlands Garden. What do you see as the most important idea behind the Badlands Garden? Please give reasons to support your answer.

4. Read the information board about the Black Hills Garden. How do you notice people of different cultures being represented in the Black Hills Garden? Please give reasons to support your answer.

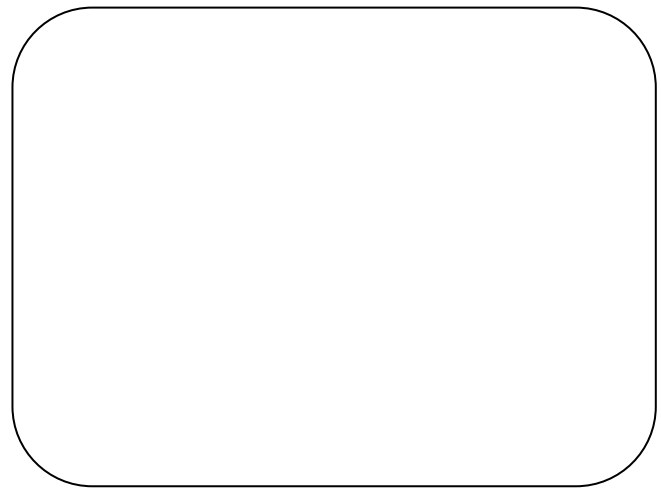
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5. Please choose two close-up sections from the carved portions of the Badlands Garden that you especially like and draw those close-ups here.



Close-up one



Close-up two

6. Please explain here why you chose to draw the first close-up you picked.

7. How do you think you could explain the second close-up you picked using only words, not drawings? Please make your description as clear as possible so others could visualize the close-up in their own minds.

8. How do you think future generations of visitors will feel about this art project?

South Dakota Arts Council support is provided with funds from the State of South Dakota, through the Department of Tourism, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Notes for Teachers

The lessons connected with *The Sculpture Project: Passage of Wind and Water* are designed to be used with students in many grade levels. You may need to provide scaffolding in order to help your students access the text. To help with this, we have included this vocabulary bank. This bank can be easily used with the existing word study procedures you use with students.

- discover
- privately funded
- art commission
- explore
- communicates
- sculptor
- transforming
- ancient
- granite
- selection
- aspects

- cultural history
- visual themes
- natural elements
- sustain
- visualize
- exterior
- interior
- visualize

CCSS Language Arts Anchor Standards Addressed:

R1: Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

R10: Read and comprehend complex informational texts independently and proficiently.

W9: Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, & research.

SL1: Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly & persuasively.

L4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown & multiple-meaning words & phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, & consulting reference materials as appropriate.

L6: Acquire & use accurately a range of general academic & domain-specific words & phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, & listening at the college & career-readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge.

This text and the accompanying critical thinking questions are considered informational texts. They are real-world texts about a current local project. The questions are designed to elicit high-level thinking and need no answer key. If students are showing their original thinking, engaging with the topic and the ways in which they perceive the project, then they are doing good work. Teachers will have success when they encourage students to show and explain their thinking. Great student discussions can follow! The next page contains a graphic organizer that can help thinkers prepare for their discussions. This process of preparing for & engaging in peer discussions addresses the CCSS Speaking and Listening Standard SL.1!

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Discussing The Sculpture Project: Passage of Wind & Water After our visit to Main Street Square

Name:

Date of discussion:

- What I discovered about the granite

- What I discovered about Main Street Square

Why use granite?

Why put the project at Main Street Square?

Why show the history and nature of the Badlands?

Why show the history and nature of the Black Hills?

- What I discovered about the Badlands Garden

- What I discovered about the Black Hills Garden