

**Fourth grade**  
**Found Object Sculpture**

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**Learning Standard**

Students will learn about found object sculpture and artists working with this media.  
Students will create a low relief sculpture.



Resources: *The Usborne Complete Book of Art Ideas* (p. 274-275)



**Day 1**

This class period will start with an introduction to sculpture artist who use found objects.  
We will touch on environmental impact of recycling and using objects artists find.

Then students will do some brainstorming. Ask them to visualize the word you are about to say..... "Robot." They should be able to share words that relate to "robot" This list can be written on the board or on chart paper. See a sample list below.

Rectangular  
Box  
Buttons  
Switches  
Future

Wires  
Computer  
Wheels  
Parts  
Metal

Remote control  
Mechanical  
On/ off  
Silver

Provide robot images of all types to help them start thinking about the variety of choices for their project.

Then a separate list should be recorded of things that are metal or metallic that they might be able to bring in to help create a robot on a flat surface. All items should be smaller than their hand. See a sample list below.

Nails	Springs from pens	Broken jewelry
Screws	Soda can tabs	Metallic string/ yarn
Wire	Nuts/ bolts	Aluminum foil
Paperclips	Wing nuts	Aluminum roasting pans
Brass brads	Metal washers	Hooks
Picture frame hangers	Old keys	Junk drawer items

Students can create sketches based on sample metal items from the table and create a Robot with a personality.

### **Day 2 & 3:**

Construction begins. Students are provided a couple metal items. These items are collected from previous years or donations from teachers, friends and family.

#### *Materials:*

- cardboard background (or matt board)
- Aleene's tacky glue (works better than anything else)
- small containers for glue
- Q-tips or something for them to apply glue
- Collected metal items for trade

Then the trading begins. They may make trades at their table with other students and then one table at a time they may make trades with me provided they have brought some items in from home.

### **Side note:**

It is sometimes hard to get some students to bring in objects, while others bring in loads of items. I let all students participate in this project, but I do not let all students take robots home. It takes time to build a supply of items that gives variety for students. So if students do not participate in bringing items I take a photo and print it for them to take as the product. I then recycle their parts for students the next year. This is something they know about ahead of time and working into our discussion about recycling. Others are happy to leave behind extra items they did not use.

Sample photos on the next page.

