

YORK MINSTER SCULPTURE TRAIL

Over three hundred years ago a talented and famous sculptor called Grinling Gibbons created some of the many monuments at York Minster.

Let's have a closer look at some of these and other sculptures here!

Borrow a Little Explorer Backpack from the entrance to help you explore!



Chapter House

3

3

2

2

North Transept

Central Tower

South Transept

Nave

Entrance

5

Use your torch and binoculars from the backpack to help!

I CHAPTER HOUSE

Look closely at the stone carvings above the seats. Can you spot...?

- A queen with three heads
- Someone pulling a face
- A bird pecking a lady's face

Some people think these carvings were meant as a bit of fun, while others say they might have reminded the priests to behave! **What do you think they could mean?**

These carvings probably show us the different faces of real people from York who lived here over 700 years ago! Stone masons today still use people they know as models.

Pull your best grotesque face!

Tag any photos you would like to share with us on social media [@YorkMinLearning](https://twitter.com/YorkMinLearning)



2 ARCHBISHOP STERNE by Grinling Gibbons, 1680s

Curtains are often used in art to mark the different worlds of the living and the dead.

Many of these monuments were paid for by the families of important people who had died, such as Archbishops, to help remember them.

Can you spot the big stick at the back of the monument? This represents a bishop's crozier, which Archbishop Sterne would have used during services at the Minster.

Draw a picture of yourself with an object that shows people what is important to you. Can anyone guess how you would like to be remembered?

Get your swag on! Did you know...

In the past, the word swag described things that sag or droop, just as these garlands of fruit, flowers and leaves hang down.

A swag like this shows Grinling Gibbons' talent as a carver- the fruit and flowers look like real ones turned to stone!



3

ARCHBISHOP LAMPLUGH

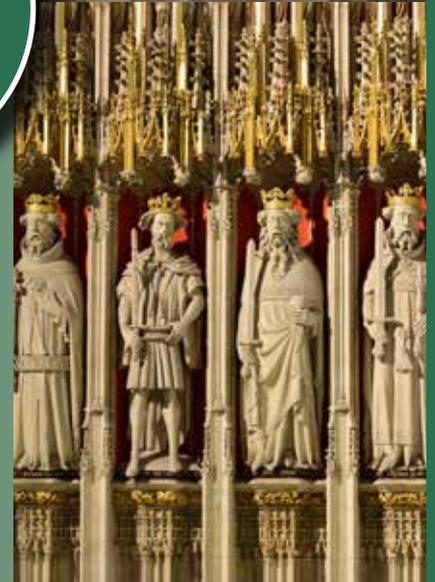
by Grinling Gibbons, 1690s

This was the first standing statue in York Minster.
What does this pose make you think about Archbishop Lamplugh?

Which pose would you pick for your monument?

Look around the Minster for other ideas, then take a photo of your pose!

Tag your photos [@YorkMinLearning](#)



Draw a quick sketch of one of these kings. Use colouring pencils to imagine what they might have looked like when they were painted!

4

QUIRE SCREEN

1440s

This long line of kings is meant to impress us by reminding us of the history and importance of the cathedral. When these sculptures were painted in the past, this must have been a powerful sight!

We think two separate groups of sculptors worked on these statues. Each group has its own style- some have wide faces and wavy hair, while others have thin faces and curls. **Can you spot the difference?**

Which of these kings do you recognise from 'The Monarchs' Song' by Horrible Histories? If you don't have headphones, please check there are no services taking place before listening quietly- impress us with your dance moves!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vC6okzIKQvg>

5

SEMAPHORE SAINTS

by Terry Hammill, 2005

These modern statues use their bodies to communicate. One of the reasons the artist made the statues without heads was to show that it is the message that is important, not the messenger.

Use this [code](#) to work out their message!

Can you use your body to spell out a word for the people in your group to guess?
Use the code to help you!

SOMETHING TO DO AT HOME

Become a sculptor! Today our stone masons work out their designs in clay before carving them in stone. At the moment Richard Bossons is working on a new sculpture of [Queen Elizabeth II](#).

Find some clay, playdough or another material to create your own sculpture of the Queen!

Tag a photo of your creation [@YorkMinLearning](#)

