

# Negative Space Activity



ROTORUA  
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*Te Whare Taonga o Te Arawa*  
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The space around the shapes you will soon draw is called **negative space**.

**Negative space** gives your work quiet areas which are pleasing to look at. It also make the shapes stand out.

Artists use negative space in many kinds of artwork such as painting, drawing and printmaking. It is also important in sculptures too.

When artists make an artwork they have to think carefully not only about the objects in their work but the negative spaces as well.

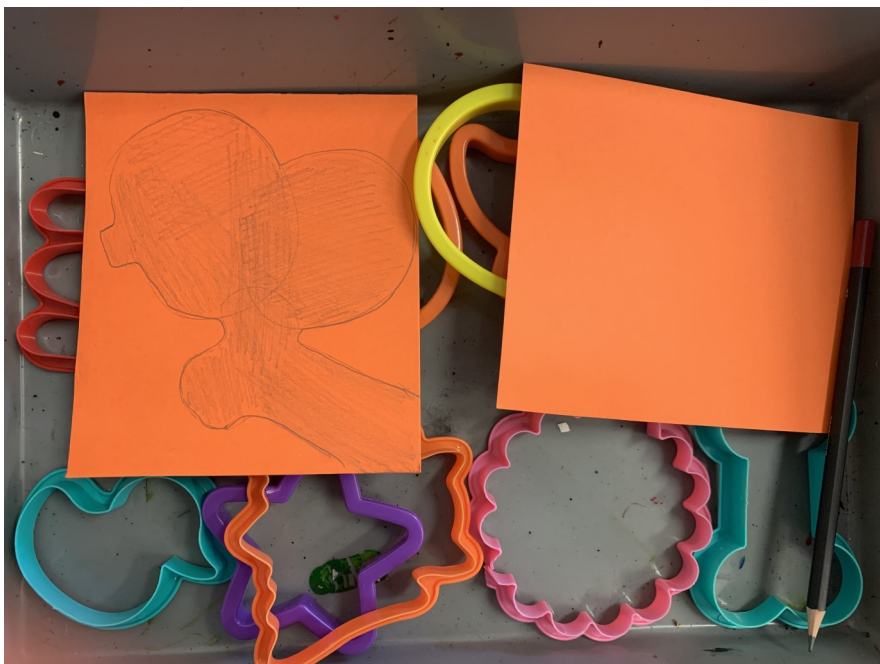


Henry Moore , Oval with Points, 1968.

In this modernist sculpture the negative space becomes an interesting part of the artwork.

What can you see in the negative space? ...

You may notice the tree, sky and piece of the field. You can see that the surrounding space becomes part of the artwork itself.



**Equipment (each student will need):**  
a pencil, small A5 coloured paper,  
3x cookie cutters.

**Instructions:**

1. Draw an outline of each of the three cookie shapes, making the shapes overlap.
2. Colour in the areas of the shapes with pencil.
3. Then draw a thicker outline around the final shape.
4. Notice the negative space around the shapes.