Little Dancer Aged Fourteen Task (Grade 2)

Phenomenon:
The original Little Dancer Aged Fourteen sculpture was made of beeswax, clay, fabric and wood which changed over time (became damaged).

The sculpture was recreated in bronze.

Edgar Degas Background Information

- Edgar Degas was a French artist who was famous for colorful paintings. His paintings often showed racehorses, singers, and ballet dancers.

- In 1881, he surprised everyone with a sculpture of a young ballerina named Marie. He called the sculpture Little Dancer Aged Fourteen.

- At the time, many artists made sculptures from bronze, a metal, or marble, a kind of stone. Degas did something new. He used many different materials to create Little Dancer.

- Degas even gave Little Dancer real clothes and hair. His original sculpture wears a fabric ballerina tutu and slippers. On the sculpture’s head, he placed a wig made of real hair tied with a silk ribbon.
Lesson 30

**Objective:** Explain how the materials of the original *Little Dancer Aged Fourteen* sculpture are each suited to their purpose. (End-of-Module Assessment)

---

### Launch 5 minutes

Tell students that in this lesson they will apply their understanding of how matter can be described, classified, and used in an End-of-Module Assessment. Explain that the assessment is a way for students to show all the knowledge they have developed throughout the module.

Tell students that they will first learn about an artist named Edgar Degas and a sculpture he made called *Little Dancer Aged Fourteen*. Read aloud the background information about Edgar Degas (Lesson 30 Resource A). Then display and read aloud the Knowledge Deck poster about *Little Dancer Aged Fourteen*.

Engage students in a conversation about the new phenomenon.

> **What materials did Edgar Degas use to make the sculpture?**
>  - He used wood, metal, rope, wire, and padding.
>  - He covered the outside of the sculpture with clay and wax.
>  - He used fabric to make the clothes and shoes.

> **How did Degas use each of these different materials?**
>  - He used wood and metal on the inside of the sculpture.
>  - He used clay and wax on the outside of the sculpture.
>  - Degas wrapped rope around the middle and the legs of the sculpture.
What happened to the sculpture over time?

- The sculpture's arms and hands cracked!
- The tutu fell apart.
- People made copies of the sculpture with bronze.

Draw on students' observations to arrive at the following key ideas. As students discuss these ideas, write them on a sheet of chart paper to create a resource for students to refer to during the assessment.

- The artist made *Little Dancer Aged Fourteen* from many materials.
- He used the materials in different ways.
- The original sculpture became damaged. Other people remade it in a metal called bronze.

Distribute a *Little Dancer Aged Fourteen* Knowledge Deck card to each student. Ask students to look at the text on the back of the card. Read each sentence aloud to summarize the key ideas for students to keep in mind during the End-of-Module Assessment. Tell students they may use the card as a resource during the assessment. Then introduce the Phenomenon Question *Why was the sculpture *Little Dancer Aged Fourteen* remade in bronze?*

---

**Learn** 28 minutes

**Complete End-of-Module Assessment** 28 minutes

Distribute the End-of-Module Assessment; the prepared samples of beeswax, clay, fabric, and wood; and the plastic handheld magnifiers. (See Lesson 30 Resource B.) Instruct students to share the samples with a partner for the first item of the assessment; however, emphasize that students should complete the assessment individually.

---

**Teacher Note**

Students may open the jars during the assessment to interact with the beeswax and clay. Encourage students to use the magnifier to look closely at the materials.