

Exercise 6

TAU Math worksheet

TAU was first conceived in 1961/62. It is made of steel, painted matt black. It weighs 12,100 lbs and is approximately 14' H x 21'W x 7' D. In Greek, TAU is the 19th letter of the alphabet or "T". According to Smith, the work contains " a certain element of surprise, but is not calculated."

► Before you visit TAU

Research the artist Tony Smith to see other examples of his monumental sculpture. Which one do you like best? Why? What do you think Smith meant when he said that TAU contains " a certain element of surprise, but is not calculated." Do you see this element of surprise in his other sculptures? Print out the TAU Math Worksheet to take with you on your visit to TAU.

► When you visit TAU

Follow the directions on the TAU Math Worksheet while you are looking at the sculpture.

► After you visit TAU

How was your experience of looking at a sculpture different from looking at a painting or drawing? Research the places you can go near where you live or travel to see sculpture. You can find sculpture in museums, sculpture parks, art galleries, a church or in public parks. Look for sculpture in and around architecture. Plan a visit to a sculpture near you and think about TAU and Tony Smith when you look at it.

Date _____ Name _____ Teacher _____

Dear Students,

The artist Tony Smith created his sculptures using geometric forms. He was born in South Orange in 1912 and he lived, worked and created his sculptures right here in South Orange. You can visit other Smith sculptures in many U.S. museums and cities. Tony Smith died in 1980, but two of his daughters, who grew up here and went to Columbia High School, are now famous artists themselves. Let's take a look at Smith's sculpture TAU.



1 List all of the geometric shapes you see. Walk around TAU to make sure you see all angles.

2 Tony Smith used tetrahedrons to create TAU. A tetrahedron is made of 4 faces of 4 equilateral triangles, like the four-sided die Mr. Wolff uses in class. Can you guess how many tetrahedrons make up TAU?

(Circle one.) 5 7 8 10 12 15

3 TAU is made of steel. It is 14-feet high, 21-feet wide and 7-feet deep. First, circle how many pounds you think equal one ton.

250 500 1,000 1,750 2,000 2,250 3,000 pounds make up one ton.

Now, can you guess how many tons TAU weighs? Approximately _____ tons.

4 Walk around TAU. Which side looks like the front to you?

(Check one.) The side that faces... _____the duck pond_____Mead Street_____Ridgewood Road

5 Stop and stand where you like the angle of TAU the best. Now explain why you like the way the sculpture looks right there. I like the way TAU looks from where I'm standing because...

6 What would you name this sculpture if you had made it? What color would you paint it?

I would rename my sculpture _____. I'd paint it _____.