TOP TREASURE

Find this at

DIMBOLA
MUSEUM & GALLERIES

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Questions

- What do you think it is?
- Can you describe it?
- What do you think it is made from?
- How big do you think it is?
- What do you think it was used for?

FACT FILE

Statue of Jimi Hendrix

What is it?

It is a statue of Jimi Hendrix playing electric guitar at the Isle of Wight music festival. It is in the garden at Dimbola Museum and

How old is it?

The statue was made in London in 2006.

What is it made from?

A type of metal called bronze.

Bronze sculpture is made by a process known as casting: pouring molten metal into a mould and leaving it to cool and harden.

Significance

Jimi Hendrix was an iconic American guitarist. He played at the 1970 Isle of Wight Festival held on Afton Down, which can be seen from Dimbola. Hendrix died on 8th September 1970, days after playing at the festival.

The statue was designed by John Swindell. It was commissioned by John Giddings, the promoter of the current Isle of Wight Festival.

Other facts

The 1970 festival was supposed to attract 50,000 people to watch acts such as The Who, The Doors and Joni Mitchell. However, it is estimated that up to 600,000 people attended. Concerns about this led to an act of parliament preventing large groups of people gathering on the Island without a special license.

Other facts

In 2020 the Black Lives Matter movement brought attention to public statues. In Britain there are 968 public statues of named people but of these only 21 are from an ethnic minority background.

Why don't you?

- Think of a someone from an ethnic minority you admire and that you would create a statue of. It could be someone you know in your real life or someone famous like an actor, musician, sports person or campaigner. Write down what is it about them you admire and why there should be a statue of them
- Imagine you were organising the Isle of Wight Festival, which three musical acts would headline your festival? Research music festival posters (you could start here: tiny.cc/festival-posters) and design the poster artwork for your own festival.
- Use the internet to find out about more about the importance of statues and those of other people from ethnic minority backgrounds. You could start here: tiny.cc/statues and here: tiny.cc/statues2

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