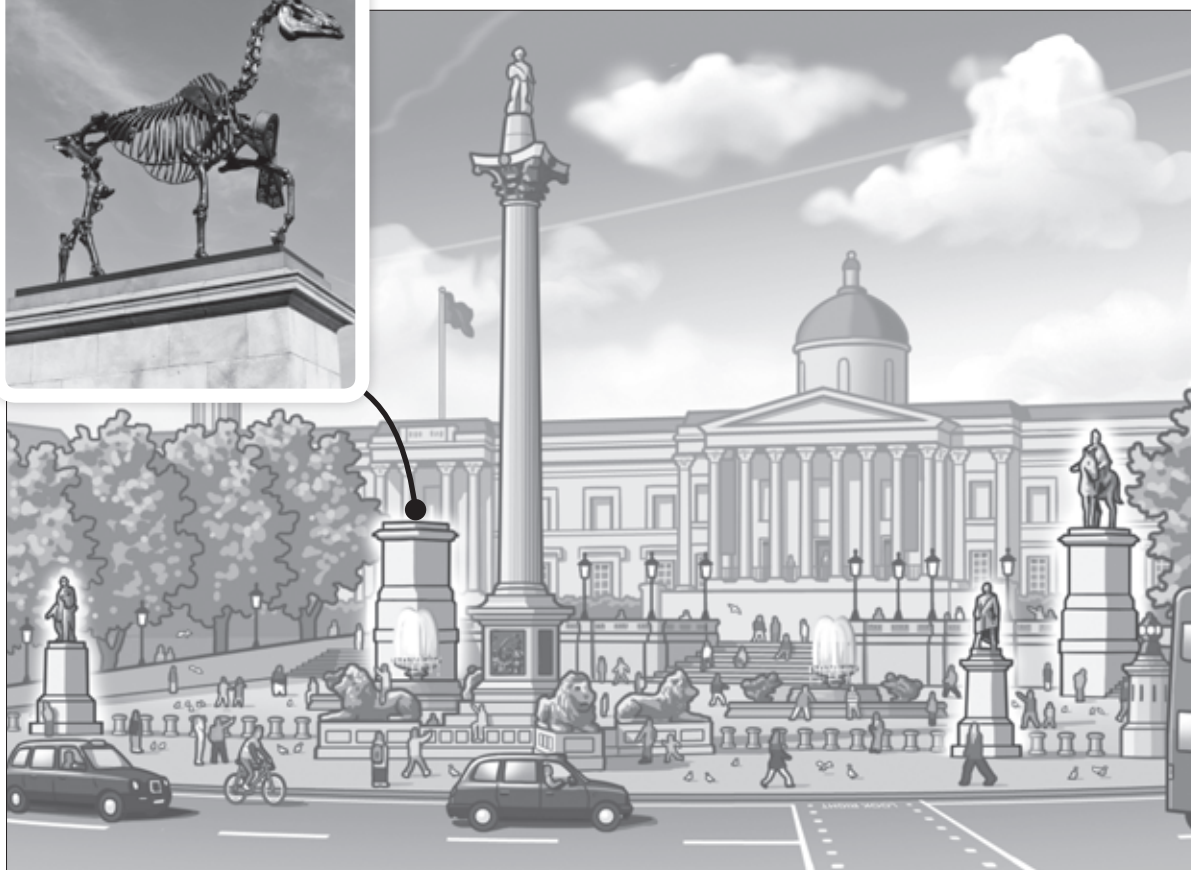


## 7B COMMUNICATIVE Public art?

The Fourth Plinth is a block of stone in Trafalgar Square in central London. It was originally intended to hold an equestrian statue of King William IV (1765–1837), but remained bare due to insufficient funds. For over 150 years the fate of the plinth was debated. In 1999, a sequence of three contemporary artworks to be displayed on the plinth was announced. The success of this initiative led to a commission being formed to decide on a use for the plinth. Eventually that commission unanimously decided to continue using it for the temporary display of artworks. One of the most popular modern sculptures displayed there recently has been Gift Horse by Hans Haacke.



**b** Read about the Fourth Plinth and look at one of the modern sculptures exhibited there. Then answer the questions in small groups.

- 1 What do you think the sculpture on the Fourth Plinth represents? What do you understand the title to mean? Do you like the sculpture? Why (not)?
- 2 Are there any famous statues, sculptures, or monuments in the town where you live? Which ones do you particularly like or dislike? Why?
- 3 Imagine you were going to commission a new statue, monument, or piece of public art for your town / city. Answer these questions:
  - What should it represent? (e.g., a historical figure or event, something your town / city is famous for, a concept that represents your town / city)
  - How big would it be? What would it be made of?
  - Where would it be? Why?
  - Would it be temporary or permanent?