

## The Podium

*Stand outside the Podium and look up at the ArcelorMittal Orbit.*

**F** The ArcelorMittal Orbit was designed for the 2012 London Olympic Games & Paralympic Games

**The ArcelorMittal Orbit is a sculpture to be experienced. It is the largest public artistic commission in the world.**

**1. What does 'public artist commission' mean?**

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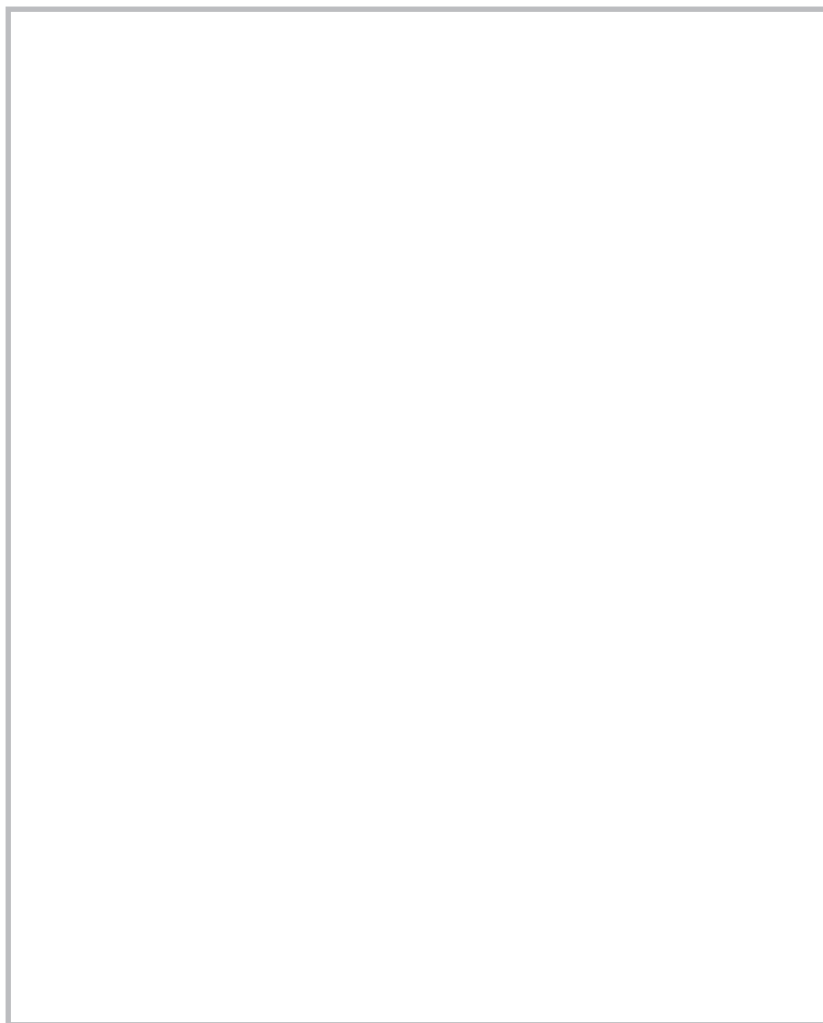
## Looking Up!

*Stand outside the Podium and look up at the ArcelorMittal Orbit.*

**The lines of the sculpture are fluid.**

**2. Sketch the ArcelorMittal Orbit without looking at the page or taking your pencil off the paper.  
Don't peek!**

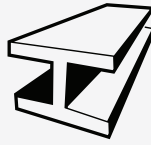
**F** The ArcelorMittal Orbit is the **TALLEST** sculpture in Britain – 114.5m



# The Canopy

*Walk over to the foot of the ArcelorMittal Orbit. You are now under the Canopy, wait until you can use the lift.*

**F** The ArcelorMittal Orbit is made of:



**2,000 tonnes of steel**



**19,000 litres of paint**



**35,000 steel bolts**

**3. a) Touch the metal. How does it feel?**

**b) What other materials are used here?**

## Going up!

**F** The lift takes 34 seconds

*Your group will probably need to split into smaller groups to use the lifts.*

**4. Listen to the hosts. What do they say about the inspiration behind the ArcelorMittal Orbit?**

## Upper Deck External

*Turn to your right and go along the walkway. Take care and leave space for other visitors to look!*

**5. From here you can see the London 2012 venues. Can you spot?**

The Olympic Stadium ☐ London Aquatics Centre ☐ Copper Box Arena ☐

Lea Valley VeloPark ☐ East Village ☐

## Upper Deck

*Continue along the walkway and enter through the door into the viewing platform.*

**F** When it's sunny you can see for more than 20 miles

**6. What detail of London life can you see from your view today? There are lots of different types of buildings that make up the skyline, list the landmarks you can see.**

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The artist and designer took a risk in its asymmetric design, but the engineering behind it made sure it was stable – Cecil Balmond describes why: “An orbit turning around itself and making contact with itself as it passed its own trace would give strength – I had the intuition it would. Three points touch the ground as a tripod, which is very stable.”

**7. What makes this sculpture different to any landmarks you have seen before?**

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## Mirrors

*What can you see in the mirrors? Try looking from different places!*

**8. Anish Kapoor uses mirrors to distort images. Why does he use them?**

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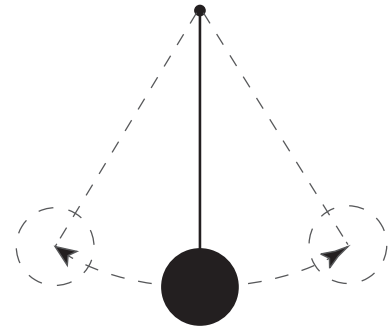
**9. How do they distort your image?**

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## Outside

*Go through the door onto the walkway. Take care and leave space for other visitors to look!*

To combat the impact of wind, The ArcelorMittal Orbit is steadied by a tuned mass damper – it has been designed in a similar way to an earthquake-proofed building. The system is a little like holding a bag while you are on a swing – depending on the length of the strap, it affects your swing in a different way.



**F** The pendulum alone weighs 40 tonnes, and its length is 2.8 m

## Lower Deck

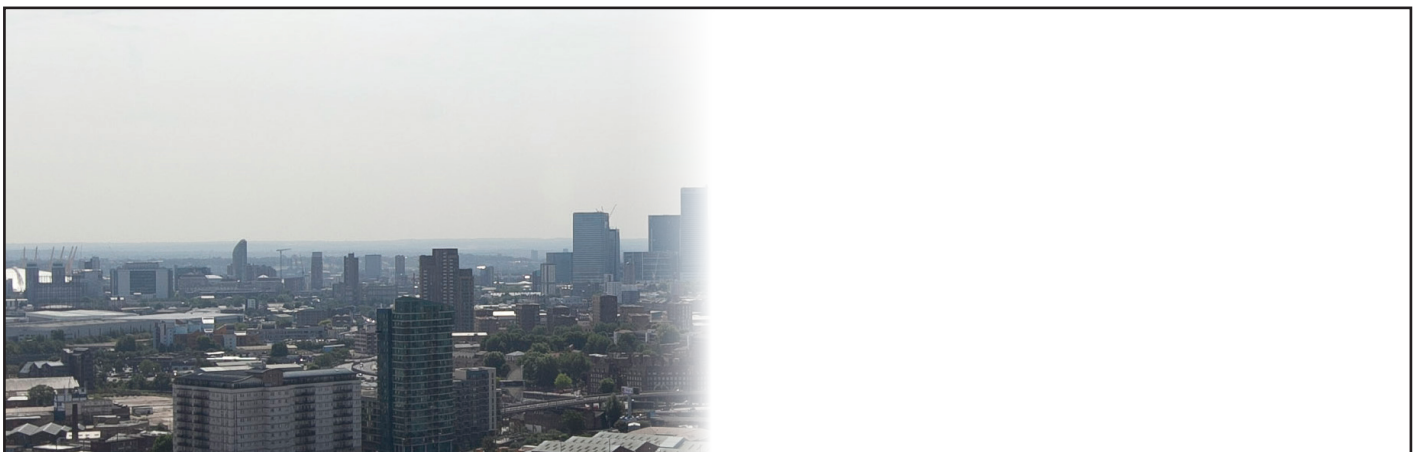
*Follow the walkway along and down the stairs. This will lead you inside onto the lower deck.*

**You are 85m above ground.**

**10. a) What can you see?** .....

**b) How do you feel? Ask a friend.** .....

**11. Sketch the rest of the skyline.**



# Stairs down

*Exit the deck via the main doors and take the entrance to the stairs, next to the lifts.*

**f** There are 455 steps

**12. How long did it take you to descend the stairs? .....**

**13. Now you have been under and up ArcelorMittal Orbit put your 'designer' hat on and evaluate against this design brief specification:**

Specification point	Marks out of 10 (1=low, 10=high)	Why?
People can interact with it		
Gives feeling of light		
Looks unstable		
Celebrates the 2012 Olympic Games		
Uses recycled materials		

**14. Many other landmarks use triangles in the design. Spot triangles in the design of ArcelorMittal Orbit. Keeping your designer hat on, what changes would you make to the structure? Think about its uses too.**

**Sketch them on top of this picture and make notes about the materials.**

