We Are Textile Designers: Felt Christmas Tree and snowmen decorations.

Key Knowledge
Learn this information

Properties of suitable materials:

Felt: A strong material made from either natural or synthetic fibres, constructed by matting and pressing fibres together.

Fibre: A fibre is the smallest visible unit of any textile product. Fibres naturally occur in both plants and animals.

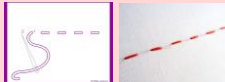**Thread:** Light, thin and soft. Regularly used due to being a cheap and affordable material.

Features of a good quality, functioning Christmas Tree or snowman decoration:
To be able to hang independently on a Christmas tree. To resemble a snowman or Christmas tree and be bright with Christmas detailing that draws in the viewer.
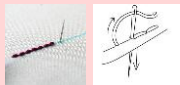

Stitches:
Running stitch (simple stitch consisting of a line of small even stitches)

Backstitch is a simple method of sewing with overlapping stitches to create the appearance of a continuous line on the fabric.

Blanket stitch is a stitch used to reinforce the edge of thick materials.

Keys Skills
Practice and perform these skills

Analyse **existing products** to identify good, bad and preferred features.

Sketch and **annotate** both an existing product and own design using knowledge of what makes a good quality Christmas tree decoration.

Apply knowledge to design and make a good quality, functioning Christmas tree decoration with all three hand stitches used **(running, backstitch and blanket stitch).**

Cut fabric with scissors:
1) Put your thumb through the top hole.
2) Put your middle finger/fingers through the bottom hole.
3) Hold the fabric you are cutting in your other hand. Move the fabric rather than the scissors to cut around shapes.
4) Cut using the point of the V in-between the two blades. Small snips give a more accurate cut. Long snips work well on straight lines.

Thread a needle: Pass the thread through the eye of the needle using a slow, steady hand.

Tie off to secure thread: Pass needle and thread through fabric, don't pull it all the way through (leave a tail), push needle back through the side you just came though to make a loop, leaving the loop (hold with finger to keep it) bring needle back through fabric and sew through loop not once but twice.

Embroidering a pattern: on the reverse of your felt lightly mark on your pattern . Using a back stitch, follow the pattern ensuring you start and finish on the reverse side.

Attach decorations such as sequins and beads: If there is only one hole, you will need to use the same repeated direction (unlike a button), e.g. up, over the side and up again. Unlike the button, it does not have a function and therefore the thread can go over the side of the sequin/bead. Once secure, tie off.

Key Vocabulary
Understand these keywords

Felt - A cloth made of wool or other animal fibres that have been pressed instead of woven together.

Thread - A fine cord used in sewing, weaving, and the like. Thread is usually made of two or more fibres such as cotton twisted together.

Thread (verb) - To pass (something) through a hole or slit.

Running stitch - Simple stitch consisting of a line of small even stitches.

Backstitch - a simple method of sewing with overlapping stitches to create the appearance of a continuous line on the fabric.

Blanket stitch – a stitch used to reinforce the edge of thick materials.

Eye of the needle - The hole/slit in the needle.

Thread a needle - To pass a piece of cotton through the eye of the needle.

Tie off - Leave a tail, make a loop, sew through loop not once but twice. (To secure the thread at the end of sewing).

Pin - To temporarily hold fabric in place prior to stitching.

Fasten - To securely fix a decoration to a piece of fabric.

Decorations - Finishing touches to make the product look more attractive, including buttons, beads and sequins

Applique – pieces of fabric are sewn or stuck on to a larger piece to form a picture or pattern.

Embroidery – to decorate material with a pattern using thread.