

the new children's museum

LESSON PLAN: Heather's Spooky Sculptures

OVERVIEW

Inspired by:

The Museum's Clay Studio, open daily to visitors. This project was developed to teach basic clay sculpting skills to students of all ages.

Grades:

All ages

Duration:

30 minutes

HOW-TO

Materials:

- o Clay cut into 1 to 2-inch cubes
- o Damp sponges or paper towels
- o Toothpicks
- o Rolling pins



STEPS

Create Clay Parts:

1. Create the body by tearing off about half of your block of clay and flattening with a rolling pin or your hands. Wrap flattened clay around your thumb to create the body, then use the slip and smooth method to connect the edges.
2. Create slip by rubbing damp sponge in a circular motion on each piece of clay you are connecting, then press together and smooth over creases with your finger to attach.
3. Create the head by tearing off about half of the remaining clay and form the head by rolling or tapping the clay into desired shape. Attach by making slip and smoothing the edges.
4. Create the arms by rolling small pieces of clay into snakes, then attach to the body with slip and smoothing.
5. Use remaining clay to create and attach eyes, teeth, horns or other spooky details. You can also use a toothpick to carve texture into the clay!

Clay Tips, Tricks and Lingo

Clay is made up of tiny pieces of rock that become soft and malleable when mixed with water.

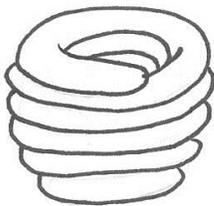
Ceramics are made by sculpting clay, letting it dry, and then baking it at extremely high temperatures – or **firing**.

Keep your clay from drying out before you're ready by covering it with a damp cloth clay dust can help solidify wet clay – and it's fun to make! Put **bone dry** clay into a resealable plastic bag and tap it with a rolling pin until it crumbles.

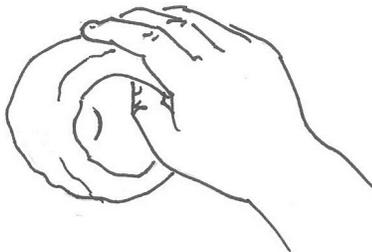
Make **slip**, which is important for sticking two pieces of clay together, by stirring together clay dust and water until your mixture is the texture of pudding. You can also create slip directly on your sculpture by rubbing a damp sponge on the surface until it becomes viscous.

If your clay is cracking, wet your finger and smooth over the outside of your sculpture.

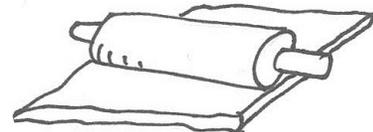
Some sculpting techniques include:



Coil



Pinch



Slab