

Clay Tiles

Principle: Form and Shape in 3D

Concept: Carving and pressing an image into clay is one way to make a picture.

Objective: To create a tile (no taller than 1 – ½ inches) from a slab of clay that projects a design in relief and is colored with Cover Coat.

Supplies:

- ✓ One pre-rolled slab of white clay per child measuring ½-inch thick and 4½x4½-inches
- ✓ One fist size ball of clay for creating relief
- ✓ Clay tools
- ✓ Canvas or old sheets for covering tables

Pre-class prep:

- Roll out slabs of white clay measuring ½" thick (*day before*).
- Cut slabs to 4 ½ x 4 ½ - inch squares (*day before*).
- Tear off one fist-sized ball of clay for each child (*day before*)
- Wrap clay in plastic, label with teacher's name and store over night.

Set-up:

- Cover tables with canvas/old sheets
- Distribute clay slabs and balls, one for each child.
- Distribute clay tools.
- Place one container of water between every two students.

Samples: See 3D sample corner in room 27(* *Look above drinking fountains around school*)

Lesson: **Begin by having the students mark their initials and room number on the back of the slab with a skewer or pencil.**

Demonstration: Discuss the kinds of things students can make with their ball of clay to create a relief on their tile (i.e. animals, plants, buildings, a face). They can also texture their tile with hatch marks, swirls, etc., making sure not to go through the tile.

Students: Have students create their designs from the ball of clay and attach them to the tile using the scoring method. To score an object, use a sharp clay tool to make criss-cross marks on the two pieces to be joined. Apply a very small amount of water to each piece and press them firmly together.

After class: Place finished tiles in boxes (with the teacher's name on them) and cover with plastic for 1-2 days. Remove plastic and let dry for 1 week. Store the boxes in the kiln room. After they have dried for a week, **fire the tiles at the Bisque** setting on the kiln.

Instructions for Instructors

Vocabulary:

Relief - A protrusion of decorative detail.

Score and Slip – A method of roughing up the surface of two pieces of clay and adding a little water before attaching the clay pieces together so they will adhere.