

Project: Taxidermy Clay Sculpture with recycled Cans or Plastic water bottles.

? Thru 12th Grade

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New Mexico Clay



Materials: Taxidermy Clay and used cans or plastic water bottles.

Supply list:

Taxidermy Clay from New Mexico Clay 2.5 lbs per student cost \$1.50 Per student.

Re-cycled Cans, or Plastic water bottles, Paints, Rollers, wire clay cutter, plastic knives and forks.

Textured items or texturing items.
Optional Fabric Stiffener paint.

Objectives:

1. Introduce students to the art of sculpture using air dry clay.

Taxidermy air dry clay will stick to an armature without cracking, this unique feature of this clay makes it useful for

taxidermy as it is added to a basic animal form and then used to accent muscles and features like eye sockets.

2. Students will make one barnyard animal (or whatever!) measuring 6" using the techniques of wrapping a can with clay then adding on.

3. Students will use their imagination.

4. Students can use various textures to enhance the sculpture.

Preparation:

1. Portion the clay 2.5 lbs. Divide (cut) the pug in half the long way, measure the length and divide by 5. When I did the dividing I made marks on the pug every 2" and so I had 5 pieces from each half of the pug, 10 in all.

2. Rolling pins, PVC pipe or wooden dowels.

3. No containers with water! Give them water and they will make a mess.

4. Set up workspace with a piece of paper or something to work on.

Instruction:

- Roll out the clay to ½ inch (approx) trim the slab so it will cover the can or bottle.
- While the slab is flat use various tools to texture the clay.
- Roll can in clay, cover the whole can, cut out circles to finish the top and bottom.
- Look at the form you have created to visualize what you want to make.
- Start adding on to the simple shape, you can add on anything as we are not firing this sculpture.

Vocabulary:

Air dry clay

Taxidermy

Barnyard animals

Dry Brush Painting

Pug, pugmill

Sculpture

Visualize

Functional, Decorative

- Keep the texturing up as this creates a rich surface to decorate later.

Decorating:

1. The sculpture should be left to dry, it is dry when it no longer feels cold.
2. Paint the whole piece one color (black).
3. Using a stiff, **dry** brush, put some color on a pallet then dip the color on the brush and wipe off the excess on a paper towel so there is only a small amount of color on the brush.
4. Bump the color over the high points of the texture. This is called Dry Brushing.
5. You can also paint color on the whole piece and then wipe it off, this is called antiquing.
6. We have a product that will make the finished product even harder and more durable. It is sold as fabric stiffener, but works great to make the finished piece hard as plastic.



Closure: Discuss the function of what we have made. Is it functional or decorative?
 Did we have fun, was it stressfull? WAS IT SCARY AT FIRST TO CREATE SOMETHING?
 But then as it happens was it fun?

Visual Arts Standards Met:

Standard 1: Developing the Skills of Art – Understand and apply visual arts materials, techniques and processes.

Standard 2: Using the Language of Art – Identify and apply the elements and principles of visual art.

Standard 3: Creating Art – Explore the creative process by using a variety of genre, symbols, and ideas for artistic expression.

Standard 4: Living with Art – Investigate historical, cultural, and social contexts to understand the role of visual arts in everyday life.

Standard 6: Connecting Through Art – Make connections between visual arts and other disciplines (Math).

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