



Masco ARTWORKS

Developed by
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Volume #64

Relief Mexican Suns

By PRANG®
Grade 3 and Up



Objective

Students will...

- Complete a relief sculpture of Mexican traditional art after studying the difference between two-dimensional and three-dimensional art.

Introduction

The sun is extremely important in Mexican culture and appears everywhere, especially as wall hangings. Ancient Aztecs worshipped the sun as a god, and the symbol remains popular today. The Mexican people usually paint these objects very brightly and hang them in their doorways for good luck. This lesson makes a great folk art unit from Mexico.

To save money, you will be using watercolors to paint the clay. Watercolors paint clay well, but be sure to use high-quality watercolors or the colors may be dull and lifeless.

Vocabulary

Relief Sculpture
2-D/3-D

Media
Clay

Wedge
Slip

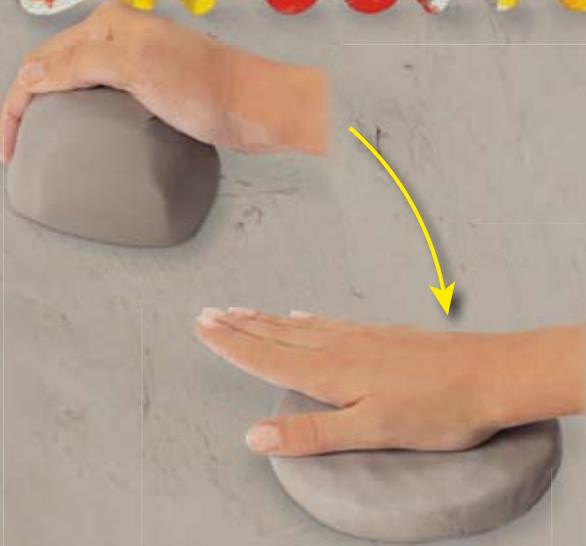
- Discuss the differences between 2-D and 3-D and how relief sculpture bridges the gap. Relief sculpture is a technique used to make things "pop" out from a flat surface.
- Show samples of finished Talavera pottery. Discuss glazed (which goes in the kiln) vs. unglazed (which is just painted with paints).

Directions



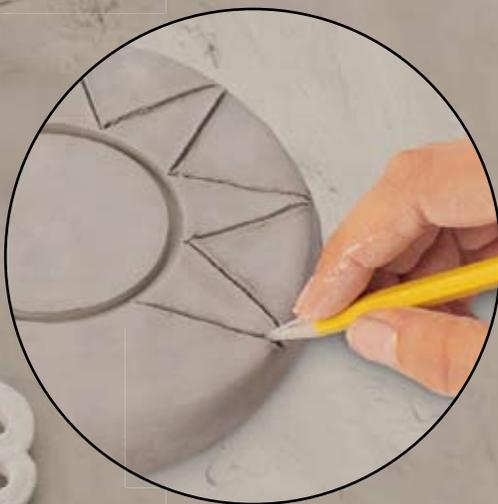
1
STEP

First, make sure the clay has been wedged, which means to work it for a few minutes on a mat to release all the air bubbles. Next, make a perfect ball of clay. Evenly press the clay flat onto a small board or cardboard (don't press clay on the table because clay is hard to lift). No cutting required. It will form a round circle if pressed as evenly as possible. Make the clay about 1/2" to 1" thick.



2
STEP

Find tops to yogurt cups or other small containers. Press down in the middle of the clay, but not too hard – if you press down too hard, you will cut the clay out! This makes the "body" or center of the sun.

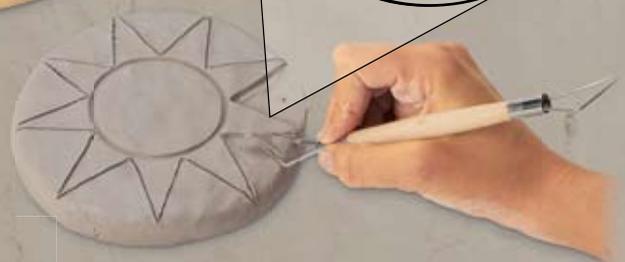


3
STEP

Using a pencil or clay tools, draw/etch a sun design into the clay.



4
STEP

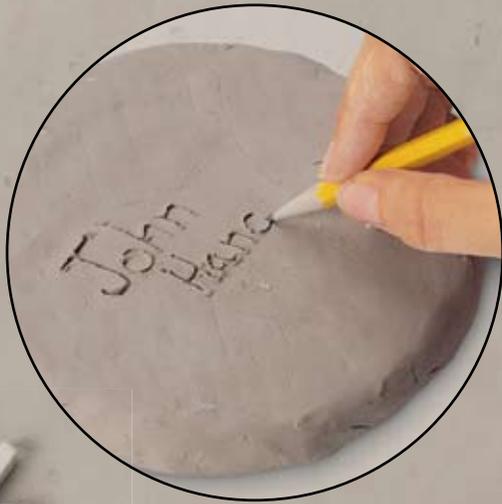


Using clay tools, remove clay to give the design depth. (Optional)

5
STEP

Show students how to attach eyes, mouths, and noses using slip and a toothbrush. Slip is a small amount of watered-down clay. It acts as glue and "sticks" pieces together. Explain that if slip is not used, the eyes, etc., will fall off!





6
STEP

Have each student write their name with a pencil on the back.



7
STEP

When finished, either air-dry the clay or put in a kiln.

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8
STEP

Use watercolor to paint. Several coats need to be applied, then seal with a sealer/glaze (such as Mod Podge®) or puzzle glue.



Tips

- If you work with clay often or have a large class, invest in a container to store your clay and keep it moist (9711407: Rubbermaid 10-gal. container with lid).
- Nasco's Clay Tote (9724901) is great for storing projects in progress. The lid has vents that can be opened for air to help the drying process, or closed to keep air out so projects stay wet for additional work.



Materials



- Clay (must be gray or white):
 - Nasco White Earthenware Clay, 50-lb. carton (Cat. No. 8300160)
 - PRANG® DAS® Air-Hardening Modeling Clay, 1-lb. pkg. (Cat. No. 9725715)
 - PRANG® DAS® Air-Hardening Modeling Clay, 11-lb. tub (Cat. No. 9727497)
- Watercolor Paint:
 - PRANG® 8-color Oval Pan Watercolor Set (Cat. No. 9700449)
 - PRANG® Watercolor Oval 8 Master Pack (Cat. No. 9724069)
- Sealer/Glaze:
 - Mod Podge®, gloss, 1 qt. (Cat. No. 1100503)
 - Mod Podge®, sparkle, 8 oz. (Cat. No. 9719883)
- Nasco No. 2 Pencils, box of 144 (Cat. No. 9727070)
- Board or Cardboard
- Toothbrush
- Water
- Watercolor Brush

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NP100_10 Printed U.S.A. FEB 2011