

# Nasco ARTWORKS

Dedicated to Delivery

## Calder-Inspired Wire sculptures



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Florida Art Education Association (FAEA)

Volume 79

Grade Levels: K-2

Time required: 1 class period

### Lesson:

- 1. Introduce students to Alexander Calder by reading a story, "Sandy's Circus" by Tanya Lee Stone.
- 2. Show the students examples of Calder's works: sculptures, mobiles, and paintings.

### Activity:

- 1. Students create their wire sculpture in 30 minutes.
- 2. When finished, ask students what their objects are and discuss the end results of what was learned.

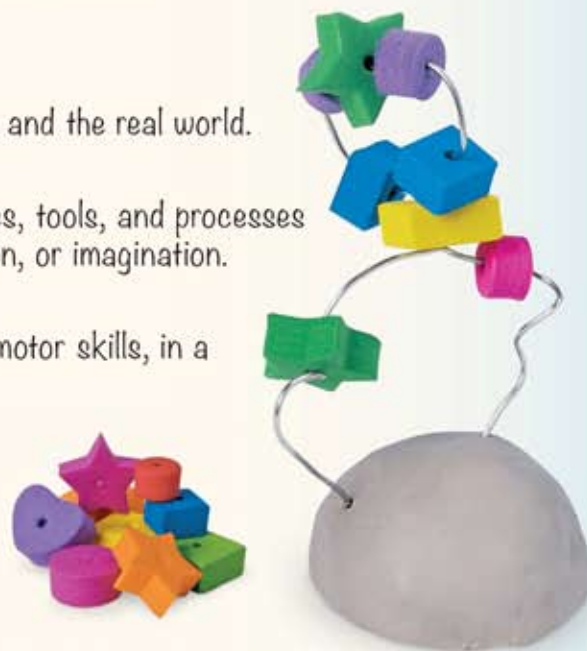
### Objectives:

Students will:

- 1. Make connections between the visual arts, other disciplines, and the real world. (VA.E.1.1)
- 2. Use two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, techniques, tools, and processes to depict works of art from personal experiences, observation, or imagination. (VA.A.1.1.1)
- 3. Use art materials and tools to develop basic processes and motor skills, in a safe and responsible manner. (VA.A.1.1.2)

### Resources:

- 1. [www.artsonia.com](http://www.artsonia.com)
- 2. [calder.org](http://calder.org)
- 3. [www.nga.gov/exhibitions/caldwel.shtm](http://www.nga.gov/exhibitions/caldwel.shtm)
- 4. [www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/alexander-calder/about-the-artist/78/](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/alexander-calder/about-the-artist/78/)

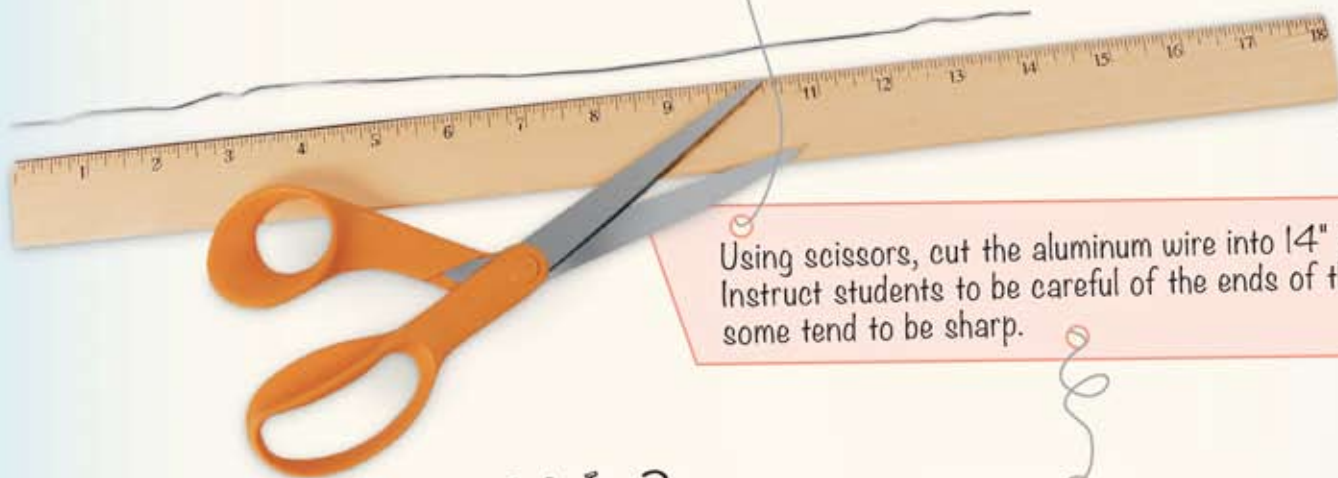
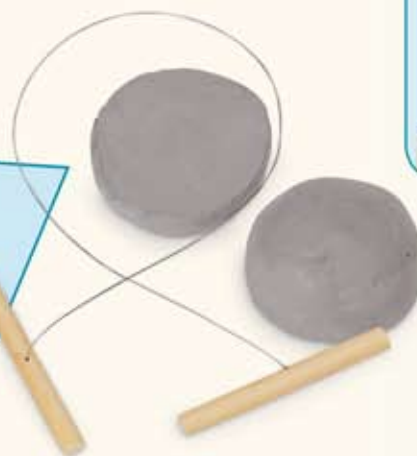


## Step 1:

Roll out small balls of clay and use clay wire cutter to cut the balls in half. This serves as the base for the sculpture.



Approx. 2" ball.



## Step 2:

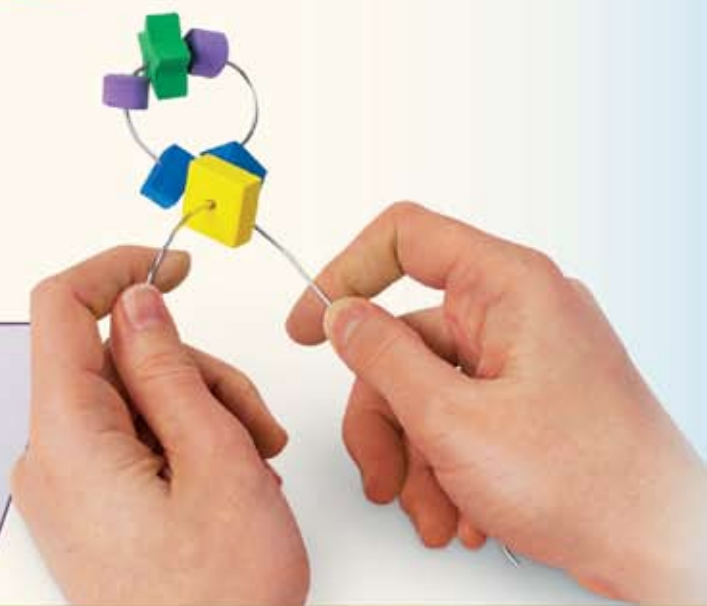
Using scissors, cut the aluminum wire into 14" strips. Instruct students to be careful of the ends of the wire, some tend to be sharp.

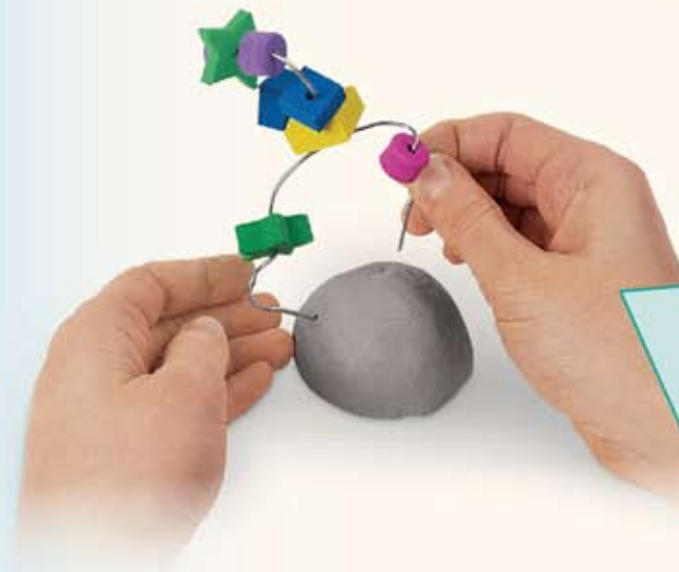
## Step 3:

Make sure each table has a bowl or basket of the foam shapes.

## Step 4:

Using the foam shapes, ask students to "string" the shapes onto the wire. While putting the shapes on, ask students to use anything to bend the wire — a finger, a pencil, or some other item. Some students create sculptures that resemble shapes or objects.





## Step 5:

When students are done creating their masterpiece, ask them to stick the two ends of the wire into the clay, being careful not to stick the ends through the bottom.

## Step 6:

After students have finished the sculpture, use a pencil to write the students' initials on the base bottom.



### Note:

It usually takes 1-2 days for the clay base to dry.

## Step 7:

When finished, document the artwork on [www.artsonia.com](http://www.artsonia.com), as well as create an area for the sculptures to be displayed. At the end of the year, students are able to take their Calder-inspired wire sculptures home!





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## Materials:

- © Nasco Gray Air-Drying Clay, 5 lbs. (Cat. No. 9703257)
- © Richeson Toggle Clay Cutters (Cat. No. 4300201)
- © 14-gauge Aluminum Armature Wire, 350-ft. spool (Cat. No. 9716369)
- © Creative Hands® Sm'Art Foam™ Beads-2-Lace, 24-oz. pkg. (Cat. No. 9731401)

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