

## A Nature Walk-Exploring Textures in Clay using Found Objects

### An elementary lesson plan for Art

#### Activity Information

**Grade appropriate level:** K - 3

**Duration:** two-40-minute classes.

**Materials:** clay, knife, rolling pin, fork, spoon, wooden board  
pieces of wood, bark, dried grass, leaves, flowers, bark, moss, stones, pieces of corrugated cardboard

#### Objectives

- Students will explore textures found in nature in a variety of ways. The students will then create clay plaques (or tiles) with a variety of textures using objects they have collected from outdoors.
- To explore the possibilities of creating textures in clay using found objects from nature.
- To convey an understanding of the relief form.



#### Prescribed Learning Outcomes

Perceiving/Responding, Creating/Communicating,  
Art, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies

#### It is expected that students will:

- identify a variety of image sources, their own and others
- describe the many forms that images take
- suggest purposes for a variety of images
- demonstrate an awareness that an image can be an original artwork or a reproduction

#### It is expected that students will:

- use feelings, observation, memory, and imagination as sources for images
- make 2-D and 3-D images:
  - using a variety of design strategies, including elaboration and magnification
  - exploring a variety of media
  - to communicate experiences and moods
  - to tell a story
  - that engage more than one of the senses

### Introductory Activity

- Explore the textural qualities found in photographs. Describe those textures.
- Collect a variety of outdoor textures such as bark, twigs, cattails, grasses, etc. for the students to explore.
- Explore the textures found in the classroom with rubbings made with a crayon on paper.
- Discuss the difference between textures and patterns.
- Take a walk outside to collect twigs, pine needles, pine cones rocks, dried grass, flowers, etc. to use in texturing the clay.



### Suggested Instructional Strategies

- Using a rolling pin, roll out a piece of clay. Create a pleasing shape or vary the thickness.
- Add textures in the clay slab by rolling or pressing in the found objects. Remove most of the materials from the clay after the texture is added. Materials left in the clay will burn away but may cause excessive fumes if the kiln is indoors.
- Lines can be drawn in varying thicknesses. Create an interesting composition using textures and lines.
- Allow the clay pieces to dry evenly over several days until very dry. Glaze with underglazes to highlight, and add interest and colour. Kiln fire the dry clay pieces.

### Extension Activities

- Create a mural with the tiles if they are made in the same size or cut from one large slab.
- Attach a hanger (made of clay) in the back, or push in a hole before the clay becomes too firm.
- Create a landscape theme mural using natural objects in relief.
- To make a textured bowl, apply a relief pattern on an evenly rolled slab, tidy the edges and place over a large stone covered by a soft cloth. Remove the slab before it shrinks too much but is still firm enough to hold its shape.



### **Suggested Assessment Strategies**

Study the textures in the relief. Notice the variety of textures. How could this form of texturing be useful? How is nature celebrated in the composition? Can you tell how the textures were made?

### **Cross-Curricular Interests**

Environment and Sustainability  
Science-Technology-Society  
Applied Arts

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