



## NATURE TEXTURES CLAY PROJECT GRADES 3-6



### Materials:

1. Air Dry Clay (8 oz.)
2. Dry flat surface for clay building (ie. cardboard, parchment paper on table, etc.)
3. Clay tools (use objects found around your house: toothpicks, fork, rolling pin, etc.)
4. Cup of Water

[Art Kits are also available for purchase from Blue Line Arts](#)

### Instructions:

#### **1. Find materials to use as tools for your clay around your house!**

These can include old toothbrushes, toothpicks, forks, sponges, straws, or plastic butter knives. These tools will help you work with your clay and create different textures on the surface.

#### **2. Knead your clay.**

Use a hard surface (with some parchment paper or wax paper laid on top) to squish and roll your clay around, making the clay malleable and soft. If your clay is too dry, add a small amount of water while kneading it.

#### **3. Begin forming your creation.**

For this project, we will use a handbuilding technique called Pinch Method. Begin by forming a large portion of your clay into a ball, using your hands and a hard surface. Once your ball is formed, use your thumb to press a large hole into your ball. With your thumb in the center, pinch around your ball of clay using your fingers, turning the clay ball as you go. You will want to keep the edges of the form thick, as you will carve texture into it later. When your clay has an

even bowl-like shape, flip it upside down onto a hard, dry surface. It should resemble a mound or hill.

**4. Create texture!**

Things in nature, such as flowers, tree bark, coral reefs, seeds, and rock formations, are distinct and unique in their textures and patterns. Use the tools you found to create the texture of your own nature inspired formation. You can use toothpicks to draw designs onto the surface of your clay. Use a fork to make straight line impressions or small dots or use a straw to create small circle patterns in the clay. You can also use the rest of your clay to create small organic shapes of your choosing. Use tools to help you smooth these pieces onto your base form, such as a sponge or the dull end of a butter knife, mimicking different growth patterns found in nature. You can also use tools like a rolling pin to help you shape new growths to add to your formation.

**5. Let it dry.**

Let your clay creation rest in a cool, dry area overnight or up to 24 hours. Your clay should feel dry and sturdy before painting or using.

**6. Sign it!**

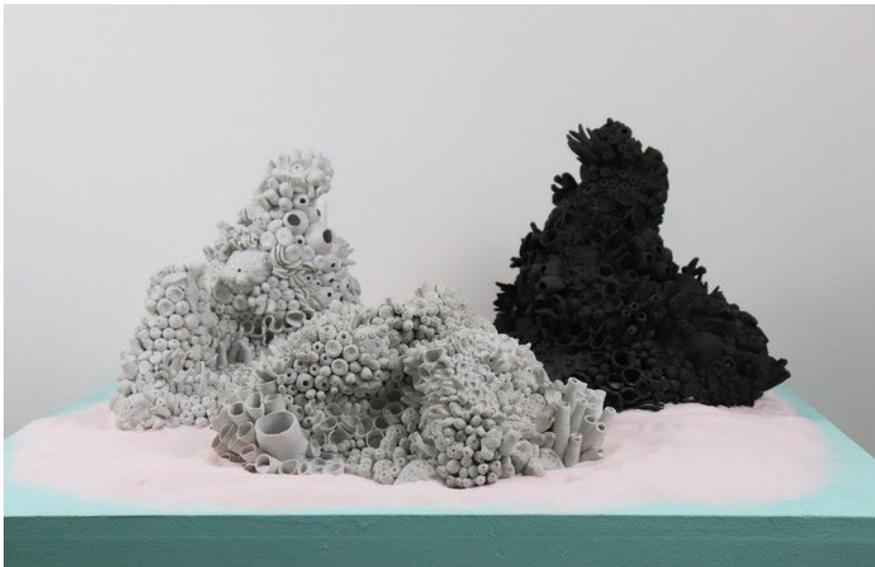
Carefully sign your name on the bottom of your work. This can also be done before it dries, with a toothpick! Be sure you date your work as well!

**7. Artist Statement**

Now that you have signed your work it is ready to share. Create a 2-4 sentence statement about your painting. This could include: what textures you created and what inspired them? Tools you used and forms you included, or anything you would like the viewer to know when looking at your work.

**8. Congratulations!**

Your work of art is complete! Take a photo with your work and artist statement to share with classmates, teacher, and the Blue Line Arts Gallery: [Info@bluelinearts.org](mailto:Info@bluelinearts.org)



This clay project is inspired by the work “Once There Was...” made by Adrienne Blair on display in [Off Center - An International Ceramic Competition at Blue Line Arts.](#)