

CORAL REEF CLAY PROJECT



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 Coral Reef project, you will want to begin by forming a large ball with some of your clay. Once you have a ball shape, lightly press the clay onto your dry flat surface, allowing the bottom of the ball to become flat against the surface. You can then begin using the rest of your clay to create small organic shapes of your choosing. Use tools to help you smooth these pieces onto your large ball of clay base, such as a sponge or the dull end of a butter knife, mimicking the growth formations of coral reefs. You can also use tools like a rolling pin to help you shape new growths to add to your coral.

4. Create texture!

Coral reefs are distinct and memorable because of their unique textures. Use the tools you found to create the texture of your own coral reef. 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 may even consider finding photographs of real coral reefs and challenging yourself to experiment with different tools that might create the patterns and textures that you see.

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? What colors you included or chose not to include? 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



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.](#)