

Title: Clay Seashell (Texture)

Subject Area: Art/Life Science

Grade Level: 5th Grade

Materials:

25 pounds of gray self hardening clay
several sets of various clay tools (one set per table)
water cans
newspapers
pre-cut 10x10 pieces of cardboard
paper towels
seashells
ceramic paint
paintbrushes

NYS Standards:

1. Students will create a three dimensional seashell by molding clay, detailing the clay with various clay tools, and complete it with ceramic paint.
2. Students will learn to use, manipulate, and detail clay through a variety of different tools.
3. Students will assess their artwork by completing an assessment ditto with various questions about the lesson.
4. Students will gain a further understanding in contrast of texture as well as the different types of texture found on seashells.

Motivation:

Begin by playing the sounds of waves crashing and having students close their eyes and recall their field trip to the beach. Ask them what they see. While keeping their eyes closed, have them describe how each item they are reminiscing about would feel if they were actually touching it. Show the students pictures of beach landscapes and have them describe how the objects in the pictures might feel. Then have the students take out the seashells that they collected on their field trip. While their eyes are closed, let them touch and explore the seashells they collected. Have them describe how the seashells feel in their hands. Then have students open their eyes so they can see the different textures as well as feel them. Have them write in their art journals the descriptions of the textures found on their seashells.

Procedure:

1. Have students gather around one table.
2. Begin by going through the motivation for this lesson.
3. Introduce them to the vocabulary term texture, and how it applies to the lesson's motivation and project.
4. Explain to the students that they each will get to mold and detail their own shell out of clay.
5. Show students the teacher sample of the finished project, as well as other clay projects that have various textures.
6. Introduce and demonstrate to students how to manipulate clay and properly use each clay tool.
7. Ask students if they have any questions thus far or do not fully understand the assignment.
8. Hand out a sizeable amount of clay to each student and have them begin the project.
9. Once the actual molding and detailing of the seashell is completed, have students gather around one table.
10. Demonstrate how to apply ceramic paint to hardened clay.
11. Ask students if they have any questions thus far or do not fully understand the assignment.
12. Have students begin the painting task.
13. Once project is complete, have students fill out an assessment handout.
14. Review with students what contrast and texture is, and how texture is an element used in contrast.

Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated by participation with all steps of the projects, the effort and creativity put into all aspects of the project, and the completion of the artwork and assessment handout.