

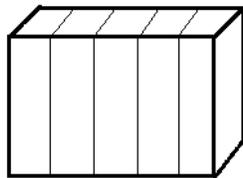
2nd Grade: February
Lesson 4: Relief Tile
Clay Lesson

Objectives: To create a Relief Tile using basic slab and collage techniques.
To combine 2-D and 3-D design skills.

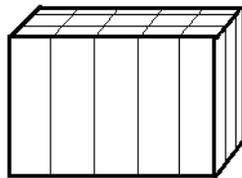
Technique: Clay slab work and cut and collage cardstock composition

Prep: (docents and aides before the lesson)

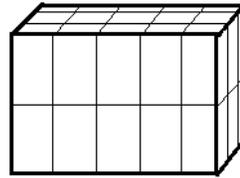
Before the lesson cut a 25 pound block of clay into 30 pieces, store cut pieces in small zip lock bags.



make 4 cuts into slab
2 inches apart



make 2 additional cuts
2 inches apart



cut in half, total = 30 pieces
3 inches apart

Materials:

Newsprint to cover workspace

Pre-cut clay portions

Clay boards

Rollers

Popsicle sticks to trim clay

Card stock, 1 sheet per student and/or available scrap pieces

Scratch paper to place under tile

Skewers or tooth picks (on hand for adults to cut corner holes)

*Scissors

*Pencil

*Glue sticks

*For large group clay lessons ask teachers to bring these materials from the classroom.

Trays or shallow boxes for transport and storage of tiles

Teaching the Lesson: 1 hour (or a little longer)

Introduce yourself and your aides.

This will be a fun lesson that is part collage and part clay. Your student artists will be making a relief tile that shows a picture of something that is special to them. It could be a picture of a Favorite Pet, or a Simple Scene such as a Butterfly or Flower. For instructional purposes we will be using the favorite pet idea.

Design ideas should be simple enough to complete the paper collage in 45 minutes. For example, limit the scope of the design to the face of an animal, a single butterfly, or single flower, it can be made more interesting by building up the image with layers, i.e.: cut separate pieces for the full eye shape, the pupil shape, and the highlight shape. Or make multiple layers of flower petals and leaves, or if a butterfly, multi-layered wing sections, body, and antenna.

Prepping the Tile: 5 minutes (you will use: clay, clay board, roller)

Use the roller to SLOWLY roll the block of clay into a flattened rectangular slab **about one-half inch thick or a little thinner. Don't let students roll the clay any thinner.** Roll the clay in all directions. It may be helpful to carefully turn it over and continue rolling...

When the slab is about $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{8}$ " thick and at least 5" X 7" or 6" X 8" large **set the tile aside.** As the tile sits it will dry just enough to be a good surface to press the collage into without being too wet.



Making the Collage Picture: 45 minutes (Use: card stock, pencil, scissors, & glue stick)

On pieces of cardstock sketch, cut, and assemble the collage. Cut separate pieces for the features and stack and glue them into place. Having stacked pieces will create depth in the relief pattern when it's pressed into the clay.

Actually, the secret to the success of a visually interesting tile will be the built-up layering and overlapping of elements in the collage.

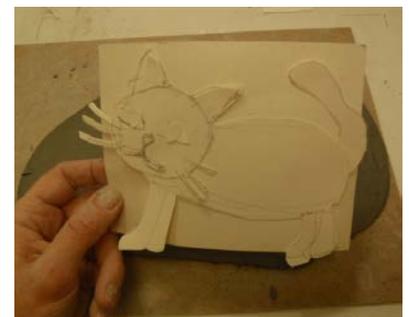
Students may cut a piece of card stock that fits on their clay slab. This can be the "background" that the rest of the collage is glued onto. Make sure there are enough layers in the collage and that the whole design fits on the clay slab.

When the collage pattern is done, place it face down and centered on the clay.

Cover the collage with a larger piece of card stock or scratch paper.

With flat hands and flat fingers carefully and firmly press and rub the image into the surface of the clay.

(You don't want the collage to slip or move. This will create a double image on the clay.)



Finishing the Tile: (5 minutes)

Gently peel away the paper collage. If there are any pieces of paper that are stuck in the clay that's O.K., leave them in place. Rather than damage the surface of the soft clay by scraping them off they can be removed later, once the clay has dried or they can be left and will burn off during the firing.

Leave at least a ¼" margin of clay around the collage to create a border. Use the popsicle stick to trim the tile to it's finish size. It can be trimmed with squared or rounded corners, whichever compliments the design and slab size. Gently smooth any uneven edges with a finger.

Cover the tile with paper to protect the surface and carefully turn it over to scribe the initials and room number for each artist. (This could also be done the next day when the tiles are firmer and more stable to turn and scribe.)

(This next step should be done by the adults at the end of the lesson.) With a skewer or pointed stick carefully shape a hole near each of the upper corners. The tile can be hung with ribbon or string after it has been fired and glazed.

Dry the tiles face-up and flat.

Clean Up: (after the lesson ends, docent and aides)

Close the lesson, clean up the workspace and classroom.

Gather tiles to dry on trays or in flat boxes.

Return materials to respective bins and boxes.

Return all materials to the art closet.

Finishing the Relief Tiles

The tiles will dry in class for at least a month. Transport the tiles to the kiln room according to the firing schedule, labeling each tray or box with room number, teacher, date, docent name and contact info.

Glazing: After the initial bisque firing, arrange times with the teacher for glazing (usually done in small groups at the back of the class during other lessons).

To glaze the tiles, select 4 - 5 glaze colors and also clear glaze. Have a few sponges (damp and wrung out) to lift glaze off the surface of the tiles, see below.

Each student should choose **one** color to glaze their tile. To get a relief effect, have the student paint a layer of color over the relief image. Next, use the dampened sponge to wipe some of the glaze off the surface. Some color will stay along the edges of the relief design and in the recessed areas. Let glaze dry. Finally, brush a layer of clear glaze to coat the whole tile. This will make the entire surface glossy after the glaze firing.

(Anywhere the tile isn't glazed with color or clear glaze it will be matte, not shiny.) *** Don't let the bottom of the tile get glaze on it or else it will stick and fuse to the kiln shelf during firing.***



Glaze Supplies:

Bottles of Glaze (4-5 colors)

Large bottle of clear glaze

Flat brushes for each glaze

2 or 3 sponges

paper to cover work surface

Student Samples

Relief Clay Tiles

Create depth by layering (stacking) 2, 3, or more pieces on top of each other.

