STUDIO SPARKS KIT

Air Dry Clay Doughnut

4-H PROJECT AREA : 4-H VISUAL ARTS CLAY

Clay has been a fundamental material, dating back thousands of years to the earliest civilizations. Formed from the natural weathering of rocks, clay is a fine-grained, moldable earth material that has played a role in art, culture, and daily life across the globe.

This project utilizes air-dry clay, which is a versatile and easy-to-use medium. Unlike traditional clay, it doesn't require a kiln or special equipment. With air-dry clay, you can sculpt, shape, and design unique creations that harden naturally over time. This project invites you to explore the endless possibilities of this adaptable material.

Supplies

- Air dry clay
- Rolling pin
- Cutting board
- Parchment or waxed paper
- Knife
- Cup of water
- Acrylic paint
- Brushes
- Gloss finish
- Saw tooth hanger
- Strong glue - Super glue or E6000

STEP 1

Separate approximately a golf ball sized amount of clay and roll into a ball. While working with clay, you'll want to either keep your hands damp with water or have a spray bottle of water handy to re-hydrate your clay. Clay can start to crack as you are working with it so ensuring it remains slightly wet will avoid cracking.

STEP 2

With your thumb, make a hole in the center of the clay. With your palm, press down on the clay ball to flatten it, shaping it into a doughnut.

STEP 3

With a small amount of clay, roll a flat circular shape with a rolling pin. This should be sized to fit on top of your doughnut.

STEP 4

With a knife, score a wavy shape and cut a circle in the center to make the icing for the doughnut. Once you are happy with your shape, cut it out using your scoring as a template.

STEP 5

Using your knife, create hatch marks on the doughnut top and icing bottom. This will help adhere the two pieces together.

STEP 6

Dip a finger in the cup of water and rub across the hatched areas of clay. This will also help bond the clay, creating a form of "slip", or a mixture of clay and water. Place the icing piece on top of the doughnut and gently smooth the edges to attach.

STEP 7

Use the remaining clay scraps to roll out small snake-like pieces of clay to create sprinkles. With your knife, cut small pieces.
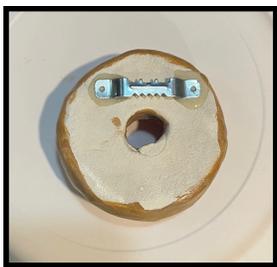
STEP 8

Place sprinkles on the icing part of the doughnut and smooth edges to attach. Place doughnut on parchment or waxed paper and let dry. Your clay will get lighter as the water evaporates. When the clay gains a uniform color lighter than the original, it indicates that your piece is dry. Depending on the thickness, this could take more than 24 hours.

STEP 9

With acrylic paint, paint your doughnut in the colors you would like. Start by painting the doughnut base, then the icing, then sprinkles. Once the paint is dry, cover the entire surface in a gloss medium to seal and finish the doughnut.

STEP 10

If you would like to hang your doughnut, using a strong hold glue, attach a picture hanger to the back. Let cure to ensure it can support the weight of the doughnut.

REFLECTION

- Did you face any challenges while working with the clay? How did you overcome them?

- What techniques did you find most effective for shaping and adding details to your clay?

- If you could improve one part of your project, what would it be and why?

- What was your favorite part of creating with air dry clay?

- What did you learn about working with clay that you didn't know before?

- How would you approach a new clay project differently based on what you learned today?

- Did this project remind you of any other art forms or cultural traditions involving clay?

- Why do you think clay has been an important material throughout history?

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