Y3 – Sculpture with clay – How can where you live impact you as an artist? Lesson 3

Lesson	3 of 5

Learning objective

I can use clay techniques to create a 3D cactus sculpture inspired by my sketches.

National Curriculum links

NC KS2:
Children will:
- improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including sculpture with clay
- develop their techniques, including their control and use of materials

Key lesson question

How can I develop my mastery of clay sculpture?

Resources

- lesson presentation (PPT)
- clay mats
- air-dry clay
- clay tools (or kebab skewers, toothpicks etc.)
- pots and brushes suitable for applying slip

Teaching input

- **Art skills** – Review the 'core' and 'supporting' skills the children will use in this lesson, highlighted on the slide.
- **How can where you live impact you as an artist?** – The slide shows the lesson questions the children will answer in this unit. The current lesson's question is highlighted on the slide.
- **Key vocabulary for this lesson** – Go through the key vocabulary for this lesson and their definitions. Have any of the children heard these words before? Did they already know their meanings?
- **Sculpting** – Introduce Richard. Read what Richard says about art skills, specifically 'Sculpting'. Use this slide to teach the children what the skill means. They will be used multiple times throughout the unit, and the children need to know what they mean. Each lesson will focus on different art skills. Go through the keywords and definitions in the 'New word alert!' boxes.
- **Let's watch** – Watch a 'how to' video showing the full process of making a clay cactus. Pause to discuss if needed. Explain to children they will just be sculpting today, not painting. Go through the keyword and its definition in the 'New word alert!' box.
- **Decorating** – Read the information on the slide. Discuss potential ways for children to decorate their clay pot and how to add texture to their cactus shapes.
- **Safety** – Introduce Lina and discuss the importance of safety when handling clay and tools.
- **Activity 1** – Children are first to make a pinch pot. They are to follow the instructions on their worksheet. Pinch pots are easier to mould if they use their hands rather than a surface. Encourage pupils to turn the pot after every pinch. Smooth out cracks with a small amount of water or slip.
- **Score and slip** – Go through the score and slip process with the children. If they completed the unit in Year 2, they will have learnt about score and slip before. If it is new to them, spend a little more time demonstrating or practising because without scoring and slipping, clay sculptures tend to fall apart once dry. This technique is always used to fix two pieces of clay together. They must create score marks on one side of the clay to be fixed and then use the slip as glue. The slip is clay mixed with water and should be the consistency of melted ice cream. It shouldn't drip down the clay too much. Designated paint brushes are used to apply slip.
- **Activity 2** – Encourage pupils to remember the shapes of cacti from the previous lesson. Children will create their cactus to fit inside their pinch pot. Remind them that they must use the score and slip technique when fixing two pieces of clay together. They can add decoration with relief or imprint techniques.
- **Let's share** – Read through the information on the slide. The children are to share their thoughts with their table groups. Sentence starters and questions are displayed on the slide to help them. Remind them to be good listeners.
- **Challenge** – Children are to answer the question 'Why do some artists use sketches to plan their sculptures before they start building them?'. Use the following slide to share possible answers and discuss.
- **Next time** – Explain to the children that they will paint their cactus sculpture using colour, texture and brush control to bring them to life.

Main activity

Children will learn how to make a pinch pot base, then mould and join clay to create their cactus sculpture. They will use score and slip to attach pieces securely and add relief or imprint details for texture and decoration.

Challenge

Using their knowledge, children are to answer the question 'Why do some artists use sketches to plan their sculptures before they start building them?' and explain their reasoning.

Cumulative quiz questions

7. Match the word to its meaning.
   imprint - a mark or pattern made by pressing something in
   relief - a design raised from a flat surface
   wedging - kneading clay to make it smooth and remove air

8. What is slip made from?
   a) watery clay
   b) glue
   c) paint

9. What is a pinch pot?
   a) a pot painted with glaze
   b) a pot for plants
   c) a pot made by pinching clay

Self-assessment

- I can use clay techniques such as pinch, score and slip to make my sculpture.
- I can mould and join clay carefully to make a cactus shape.
- I can add relief or imprint decoration to create texture.

Key vocabulary

imprint – a mark or pattern made by pressing something in
relief – a design raised from a flat surface
wedging – kneading clay to make it smooth and remove air bubbles