Sculpture with clay

How can where you live impact you as an artist?

Lesson 3: How can I develop my mastery of clay sculpture?











Art skills



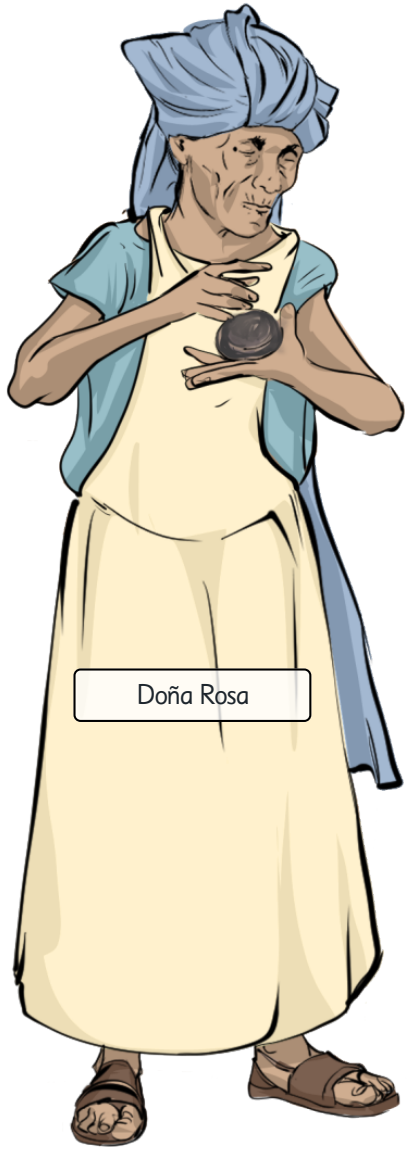
Core skills

- Appreciating and reflecting
- Experimenting
- Creating
- Drawing
- Sculpting ✓
- Developing technique

Supporting skills

- Exploring materials and techniques ✓
- Refining lines, shading and expression
- Building balanced 3D artworks ✓
- Recording inspirations and progress
- Studying artists, movements and history
- Understanding art's impact and culture
- Evaluating with art vocabulary

How can where you live impact you as an artist?



Lesson 1: How have Mexican artists been influenced by where they live?

Lesson 2: How can Mexico inspire us?

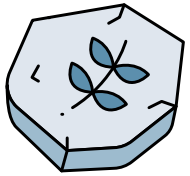
Lesson 3: How can I develop my mastery of clay sculpture?

Lesson 4: How can I best use colour to enhance my sculpture?

Lesson 5: How have other artists been influenced by where they live?



Key vocabulary for this lesson



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

Sculpting



Hi! I'm **Richard**, a **potter** and **studio technician**. I use clay to make sculptures by shaping, joining and decorating it.

Today, we'll learn the skill of **sculpting** - using our hands and tools to create shapes and add texture with relief and imprint marks.

By the end of the lesson, you'll be able to ***form a pot, create a cactus shape*** and **join clay parts using score and slip.**





New word alert!



score – scratching lines into clay so pieces stick together

slip – watery clay mixture used like glue to join parts

Let's watch

Sculpting | Exploring materials and techniques | Building balanced 3D artworks



Today, you will make a **clay cactus sculpture.**

First, you'll learn how to make a **pinch pot**  for the base.

Then, you'll **create** and **join** your cactus shape to the pot.

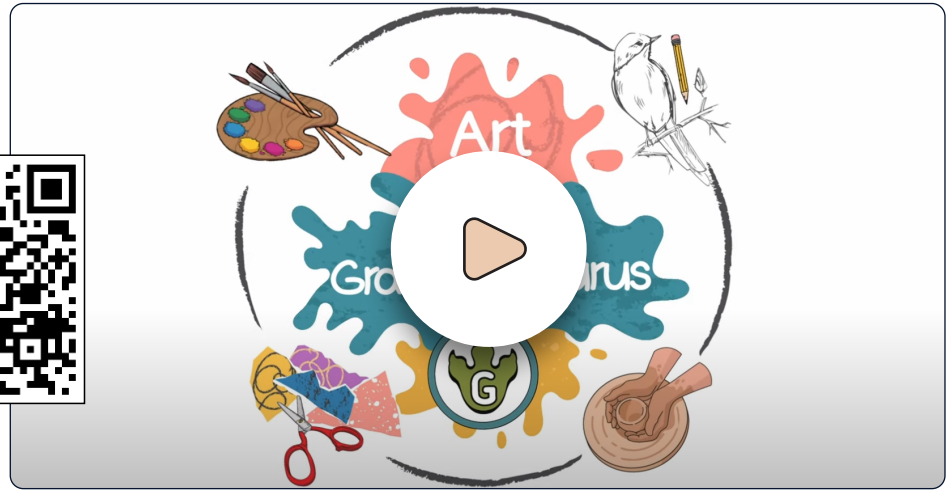
Before we start, **let's watch a video** showing how to make your **cactus sculpture.**

New word alert!



pinch pot – a small pot made by pinching clay with your fingers

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGznCA6oetk



Sculpting

Exploring materials and techniques

Decorating



Before your clay cactus dries, you can decorate it using two techniques - **imprint** and **relief**.

Imprint means pressing patterns or textures into the clay with tools, fabric, leaves or your fingers.

Relief means adding clay shapes that stand out but don't stand up on their own. Roll small pieces of clay and attach them using score and slip.

Both add **texture** and **decoration**, making your sculpture more interesting when it's painted.





Safety



Hi! I'm **Lina** and I'm a **studio technician**. I help keep the art studio safe and ready to use. When we work with clay, we follow **simple safety rules** to keep everyone and the workspace clean and safe.

- Always wash your hands before and after.
- Keep clay and tools on your table.
- Use tools safely and only how your teacher shows you.
- Don't put clay or tools in your mouth.
- Ask an adult for help if you're not sure.











Activity 1

Sculpting | Exploring materials and techniques | Building balanced 3D artworks

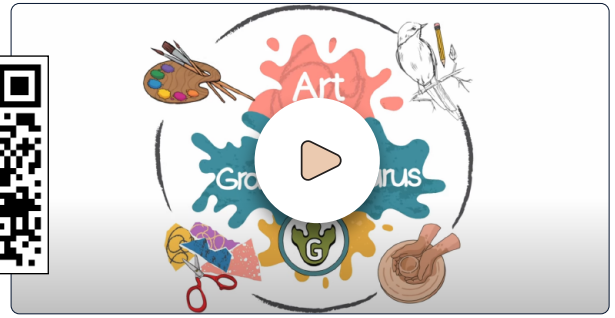


We start by **wedging the clay** so that we can make a **pinch pot** for our cactus to sit in.

Use the **instructions** on your activity 1 worksheet to make a pinch pot.

You can also **rewatch the video** to remind you about what to do.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGznCA6oetk

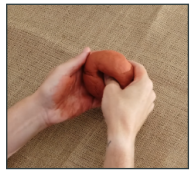


Activity 1

Follow these steps to make a pinch pot.



1. **Start with a small ball of clay.**
   Wedge the clay in your hands to remove any air, then roll it gently into a neat sphere.



2. **Make a thumb hole.**
   Press your thumb into the centre of the clay, but not all the way through!



3. **Pinch and turn.**
   Use all your fingers to gently pinch and turn the clay. The clay will begin to open into a pot shape.



4. **Smooth as you go.**
   If you see cracks, blend them with your finger. If the clay feels dry, dab a little water on it.





5. **Shape the rim.**
   Turn your pinch pot upside down to even out the rim (the edges). Make sure the edge is thick enough to stay strong.

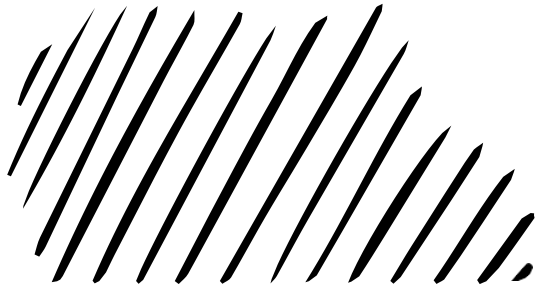
Score and slip



Exploring materials and techniques

When **joining** two pieces of clay, I use the **score and slip technique** - or they might **fall apart when dry.**

1. **Score**  both sides with a stick or tool to make **small scratches**, like this:



2. Brush **slip**  (watery clay) on one side - it works like **glue!**

3. **Press** the pieces together and **blend** the edges to join them firmly.

Activity 2

Sculpting | Exploring materials and techniques | Building balanced 3D artworks



Now it's time to make your **cactus sculpture** to ***fit inside your pinch pot.***

First, **experiment** with how you'll shape your cactus. Try **different sizes** and **forms**.

Add **texture** and **decoration** to your cactus, using **imprint** or **relief** techniques.

Remember to **use score and slip** whenever you join pieces of clay - or they may fall apart when dry.

Be creative and have fun!



Let's share

Appreciating and reflecting

Evaluating with art vocabulary



Well done, everyone! Talk with your **partner or group**:

- **What did you learn about working with clay today?**
- **Which techniques helped you make your cactus strong and detailed?**
- **How did you use score and slip to join your clay pieces?**
- **Which shapes or textures worked best on your sculpture?**

Use these sentence starters to help you:

"I used _____ to join my clay pieces."

"My cactus sculpture is _____ because _____."

"I found it easiest to _____."

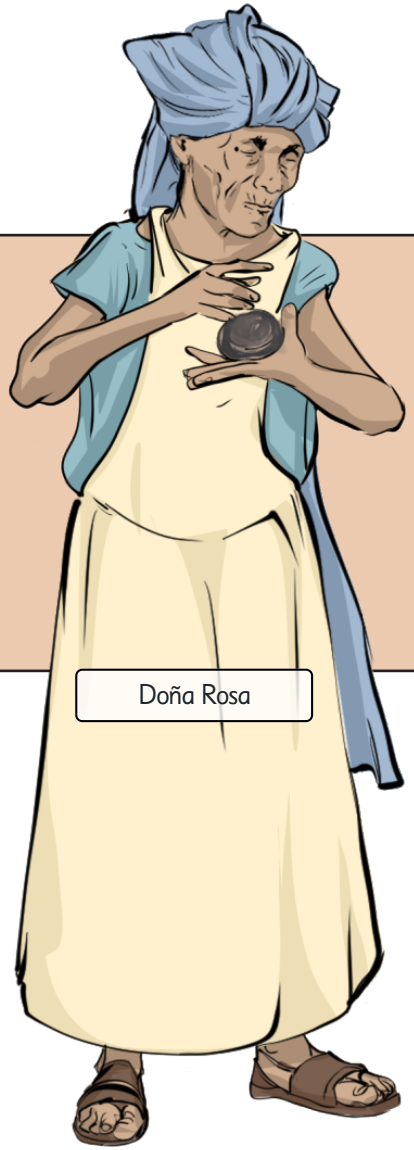
"Next time, I would _____ to make it even better."

Be a great listener!

Remember to ask **kind questions:**

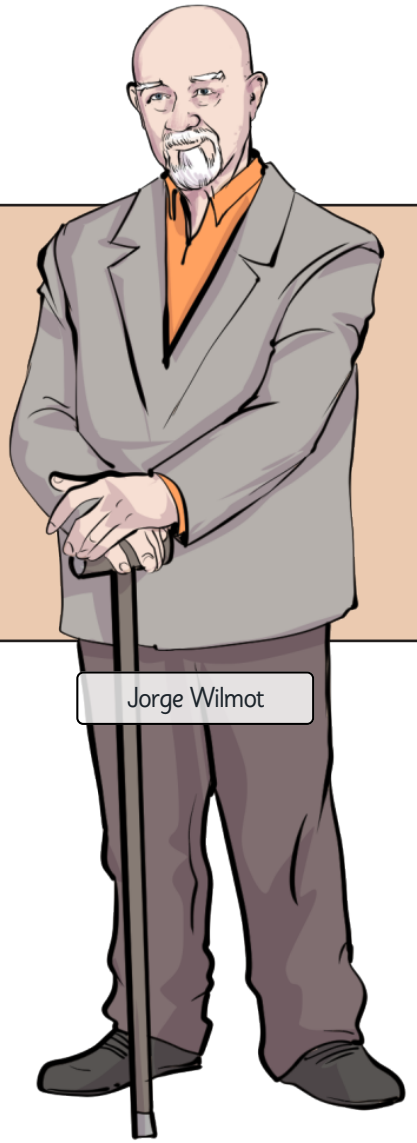
- "What do you like most about your cactus sculpture?"
- "How did you make your joins or textures strong?"
- "What might you change or try differently another time?"

Challenge



Discuss the **following question** with your learning partner.

Why do some artists use **sketches to plan their sculptures** before they start building them?

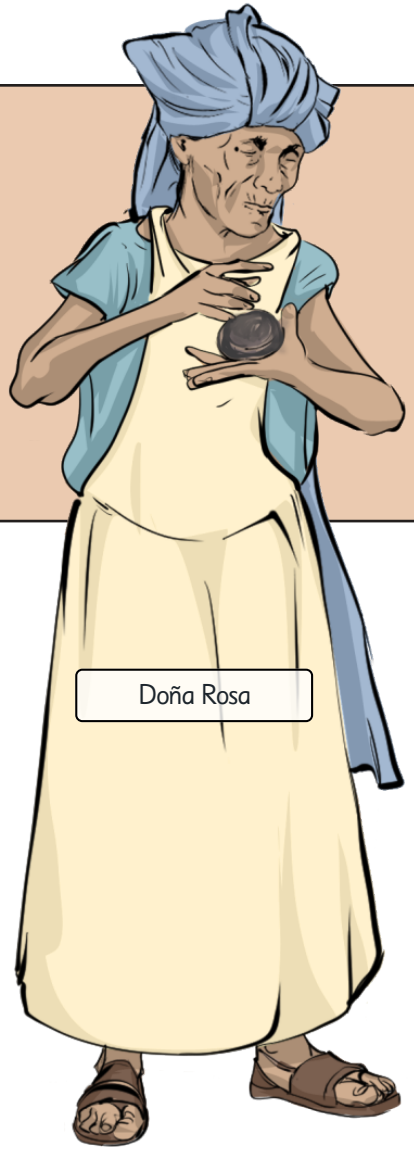


Be ready to **share your answer** with the class.

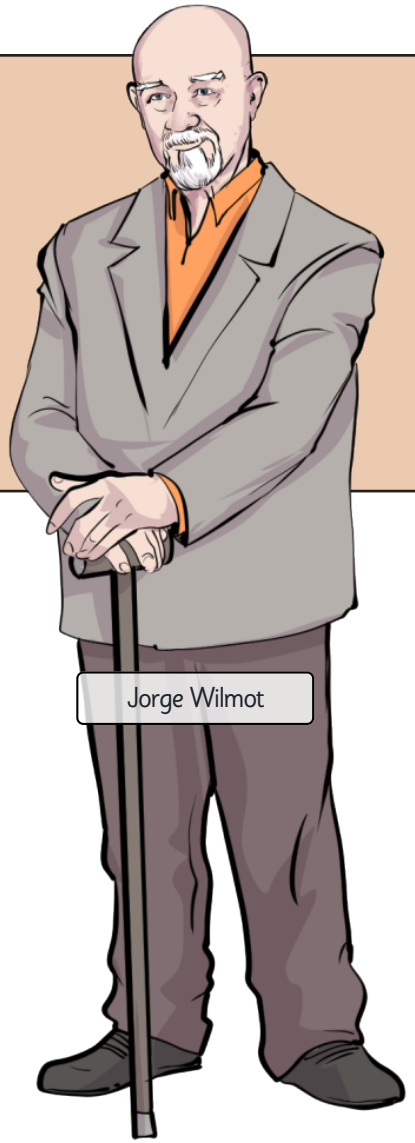
Use the following sentence starter to help you.

"I think experimenting is important because....."

Challenge answers



Why do some artists use **sketches to plan their sculptures** before they start building them?



Some possible answers:

- They help artists try out ideas before using materials.
- It lets them see the shapes and sizes they want to make.
- Sketches help artists plan details and textures.
- Drawing first saves time and stops mistakes in the sculpture.
- Artists can change or improve their ideas easily on paper.
- It helps them imagine the finished sculpture before they build it.

Next time



In the **next lesson**, we will **paint our cactus sculptures using colour, texture** and **brush control** to bring them to life.

We will think about these questions:

- How can I mix colours carefully to match my design?
- How can I use small brushes to paint neatly and add detail?
- How can I use colour and texture to make my sculpture stand out?