

Sole Pendants

In this project, students discover the beauty of textures found in a surprising place... on the soles of their shoes! Textures are all around us and often exist right under our noses.

Grade Levels preK-3

Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 25 students. Adjust them as needed.

Preparation

1. Divide the clay into 2" square pieces, one for each student.
2. Cut the cord into 15" lengths.

Process

1. Roll the clay into four to six pieces: two to three balls about the size of large marbles and two to three balls about the size of blueberries.
2. Remove one shoe and observe the patterns on the sole. With the larger balls of clay, make an impression of the most interesting patterns by pressing the clay onto the sole. Continue pressing until each ball is flattened into a disc. Students can use their own shoe or exchange shoes with a friend.
3. Make a hanging hole in the upper part of each clay disc (now embellished with an interesting texture). Make sure it is large enough to fit the Suede Lace.
4. Create beads with the remaining smaller balls of clay. Make sure each hole is large enough to fit two strands of Suede Lace.
5. When the pendants and beads are dry, paint them with acrylic paint or washable tempera.
6. Highlight the raised textures on the pendants with a second color of paint or Pearl-Ex dry pigments. The paint can be applied with a sponge and the Pearl-Ex rubbed on with your fingers. If you use Pearl-Ex, add a final layer of gloss medium to protect the color.
7. When the pendants and beads are completely dry, string them on the Suede Lace. Pass the cord through



Materials

Amaco® Self Hardening Stonex White Clay, 5-lb box (33247-1005); share one among the class



Paint to embellish; recommend:

Blick® Studio Acrylic Colors, 4-oz assorted colors (01637-); share at least three among the class



Blick® Student Grade Tempera, 8-oz assorted colors (00018-); share at least three among the class



Jacquard® Pearl-Ex® Pigments, .50-oz, assorted colors (27103-); share at least one among the class



Blick® Acrylic Gloss Medium, 8-oz (00623-1035); share one among the class

Suede Lace, 1/8" x 75-ft roll, assorted colors (63014-); share one among the class





Step 1: Press clay balls onto the sole of a shoe to pick up the textures.



Step 2: Make a hole near the top of each disc. Form smaller balls of clay into a bead shape.

Process, continued

the hole in the pendant, and then pass both ends through the bead. This will allow the pendant to lay flat on the cord.

8. Wear your Sole Pendant as a necklace, tie it on a book bag or hang it from a rearview mirror!

National Standards for Visual Arts Education

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes.

K-4 Students use different media, techniques and processes to communicate ideas, experiences and stories.



Step 3: Allow to the clay to dry and then embellish it with paint or Pearl-Ex pigments. String the pieces on a cord to create Sole Pendants!