

Roll, Dot, Roll



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Enhance fine motor skills and introduce basic color mixing while creating a charming dot-laden mosaic tile.

Over the centuries, mosaics have been created from a variety of materials—shells, pebbles, glass, and wood, to name a few—all arranged in patterns and pressed into grout or a grout-like material. This lesson, geared for young artists, aims to go beyond placing objects in patterns to enhancing fine motor skills in a fun way.

Young artists will explore basic color mixing by adding Blick Liquid Watercolor to Crayola Model Magic Clay. Both clay and watercolor are kneaded together in a plastic bag, keeping hands and surfaces clean while allowing for a tactile sensory experience. When all the watercolor is absorbed, the clay may be handled without transferring color. From the mixed clay, small balls are rolled by hand, engaging those fine motor skills. Students are encouraged to create pieces that are identical in size. More advanced students can create three sets of sizes, with each piece within a set identical in size. Clay balls can be used wet or placed on a piece of felt to dry for later use.

Clay balls are then placed in a pattern on a clay slab base, then rolled and pressed to create colorful clay mosaic tile.

Note: Instructions and materials are based on a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.



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Materials (required)

Crayola Model Magic, White, 8oz, set of 4 (33214-1002); share one box across class

Blick Liquid Watercolor, assorted colors and sizes (00369-); share at least three colors across class

Creativity Street Felt Sheets, 9" x 12", pkg of 12 assorted Colors (61753-1023); need one sheet per student

Fox Run Wooden Rolling Pin, 6" long (30345-1006); need one per student

Creativity Street Wooden Dowel Rods, 3/8" x 12", pkg of 12 (60448-3812); need two rods per student

Plastic bag with zipper closure

Optional Materials:

Richeson Heavy-Duty Art Tray, 10" x 12½" x ½" (03093-1001)

Preparation

1. Show images of mosaics and discuss patterns and repetition.

Process

1. Distribute the divided Crayola Model Magic clay. Each student will need four bags of clay.
2. Add Blick Liquid Watercolor to color the clay. Begin with just a few drops to avoid oversaturating the clay.
3. Press extra air out of the bag and seal the zipper top.
4. Knead the clay from outside of the bag to mix the color.
5. To make the color darker, add more watercolor.
6. When the clay is fully mixed and the desired color achieved, pinch off a small amount of clay. Roll the clay into a ball by rubbing palms together in a circular motion. This will be the mosaic "tile".
7. Set each mosaic tile ball onto a piece of felt. The texture of the felt will help keep the clay balls from rolling around on the table. Be sure to keep wet pieces away from each other, as they will stick together. For extra assurance that the clay balls will not roll onto the ground, the felt sheet can be placed in a Richeson Heavy-Duty Art Tray or on a cookie sheet with a lip or edge.
8. Repeat steps 2 through 7, creating a total of three different colors of clay and clay mosaic tile balls.
9. Mix Blick Liquid watercolor into the fourth bag of clay; this will serve as the base of mosaic piece. When the color is fully mixed into the clay, remove from the bag and roll into one large ball of clay.
10. Place the clay ball onto the table. Gently roll the clay out into a thick, round slab.
11. Position the smaller clay tile balls in a pattern on the slab base. The clay tile balls can be wet or dry; this process works either way. The clay will stick and does not need to be pressed into the base to keep in place.
12. With one dowel rod positioned on either side, use a rolling pin to roll out the clay slab a second time. The dowl rods will act kind of like railroad track, keeping the rolling pin level. It is best to use light pressure, making multiple passes with the rolling pin and turning the clay piece to keep the circle from stretching out into oval.
13. Allow the mosaic to dry fully before displaying.

National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

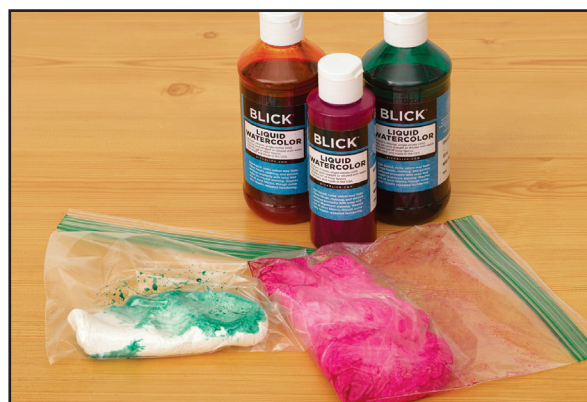
Creating

Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Presenting

Anchor Standard 5: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.



Step 1: In a plastic zip bag, mix Crayola Model Magic with Blick Liquid Watercolor.



Step 2: Roll clay into small balls and allow to dry.



Step 3: Position the clay tile balls on the larger slab and gently roll with a leveled rolling pin.

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