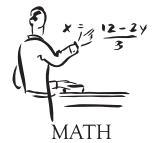


Birdhouse

3-4

GRADE LEVEL



Misc
MISCELLANEOUS



Objectives

- The students will demonstrate the ability to research birds.
- The students will demonstrate the ability to list the characteristics of birds.
- The students will demonstrate the ability to create a birdhouse using the given materials.

Materials

- “Bakable” Clay: Gold, Black, Red, Leaf Green
- Clay gun
- 3/8" round cutter
- 3/16" tear shaped cutter
- Mini wooden birdhouse
- Roller or pasta machine
- Eye-shadow
- Various books and resources on birds

Procedure

1. Ask students to think about what kinds of animals fly. When students respond “birds,” focus on that response. Explain that the students will be learning about birds and some of their characteristics and habitats. Have students define characteristics and habitats and write the answers on the chalkboard or on a large poster board.
2. Bring your class outside with paper and pencils to bird watch. Have the students write down any characteristics they observe. (This step will work best on a sunny day, either in the fall or spring).
3. Return to the classroom and have students share some of their observations.
4. Next, tell students that they will be looking for more information on birds using the books and resources you have gathered. Providing an outline or guideline sheet will give the students a clearer idea of what they should research. Some topics might include: What the bird looks like; the weight and size of the bird; the bird's diet; the bird's natural habitat, and other interesting findings.

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“Birdhouse” project continued...

5. Have students work with partners or in small groups. You may want to assign different types of birds to different groups.
6. After the students have had an appropriate amount of time to research their project, have them illustrate a picture of their bird that they can present to the class. As a reference tool, you may want to record some of the findings on a large chart.
7. After all groups have presented their findings explain to the class that they will be creating a special project. Tell the students that they will make birdhouses.

Directions

1. Knead red clay until it is soft and pliable. Roll out to a sheet of 1/16" thickness. Cover entire birdhouse with sheet. The clay doesn't easily stick to the wood so use a light touch and clean hands.
2. Roll black clay out to a 1/16" thickness and using round cutter cut shingles for roof.
3. Beginning at the bottom edge, place the circles on the roof. Offset the second row as shown. Cover entire roof.
4. Load the clay gun with gold clay and the smallest three-lobe disc. Extrude and twist to form rope.
5. Form a small ring from rope and place around the opening, then along the roofline in front and in back of the house.
6. Place rope along top of roof.
7. Knead leaf green and fill clay gun. Using same disc, extrude a length and cut 1/16" slices.
8. Gently flatten the slices with your fingers and impress the vein pattern with the side of a needle tool.
9. Place the leaves on the roof in a trailing pattern.
10. Mix some gold into a small amount of leaf green to make a second green tone. Roll this mixture into a 1/16" thick sheet. Using your tear shaped cutter, cut leaf shapes. Follow the veining pattern shown beginning with center vein.
11. Attach to roof. Roll tiny red “berries” and place them amid the leaves. Dust leaves with eye shadow.
12. Bake in a preheated 275°F oven for 30 minutes.
13. When birdhouses are finished, the students can bring them home or hang them outside the classroom. When the birds visit, students can further observe them.



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