

Honey Bear



an Early Childhood
art Lesson





Step 1

Before you can start making your Honey Bear you need to make some clay glue. Clay glue is called slip. To make slip you break off some small grape-sized chunks of clay and let them completely dry out. You can dry your clay chunks in the sun or simply leave them in the open air overnight. When they feel dry put them into a small plastic container and add enough water to just cover the clay. The clay will break down as it absorbs the water. This process is called slaking. When the clay is done absorbing the water it will look soft and mushy. This mushy stuff is called slip and it is applied between clay pieces to glue them together.



Step 2

Make these forms to build your bear sculpture:

- 1 large sphere about the size of a meatball for the body
- 1 slightly smaller sphere for the head
- 1 sphere for the mouth about the size of a small grape
- 2 spheres the size of peas for the ears
- 4 tiny spheres for the eyes, nose and tail
- 2 cylinders - One about six inches long and thick like a marker for the legs and the other one slightly thinner and shorter like a pencil for the arms.



Step 3

Bend the thick cylinder into a U shape. Add some clay slip using a small brush or your finger to the center of the U shape.



Step 4

Place the largest sphere on top of the clay slip in the middle of the U shape.



Step 5

Bend up the ends of the cylinder and slightly pinch them to create the feet of the bear.

Step 6

Add some more slip to the top of the large sphere.





Step 7

Attach the head sphere to the body.



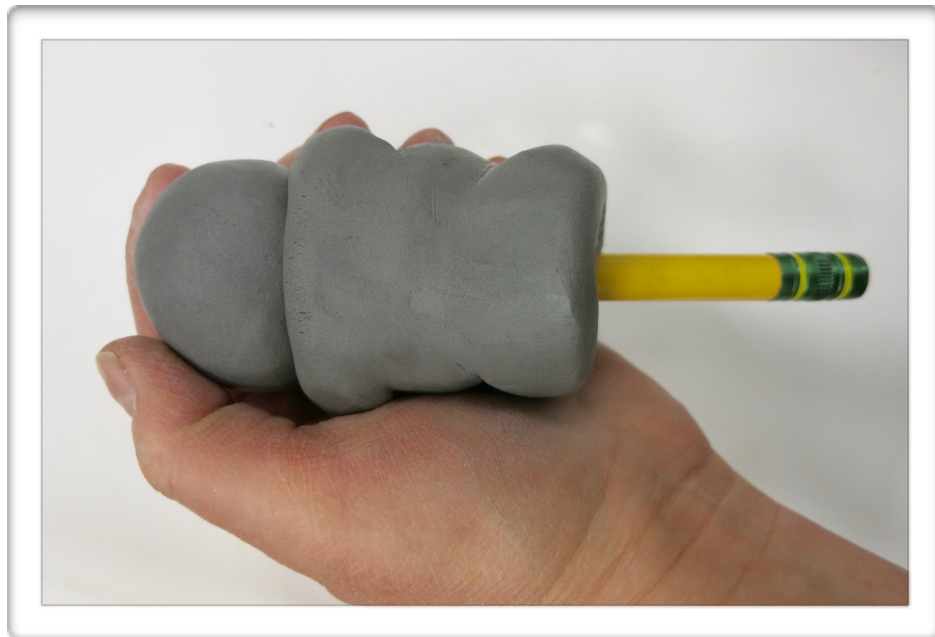
Step 8

Wrap the other cylinder around the head of the body like a scarf.



Step 9

Use your finger to smooth the cylinder onto the bear's back.



Step 10

To allow the bear to completely dry out for the kiln firing process, push a hole in the bottom of the sculpture by pushing a pencil deep into the bear. This will allow the sculpture to dry out fully before it is fired in the kiln. This hole also allows moisture in the clay to escape as steam during the firing process.



Step 11

Using your fingers gently round out the edges of the cylinder used for the arms to create the bear's paws. Add the grape size sphere to the head with clay slip and tap it flat on the face.



Step 12

Add one tiny sphere with clay slip to the face to create the bear's nose. Add two more of the small spheres for the eyes.



Step 13

Add the pea-sized spheres onto the head for the ears and the remaining tiny sphere on the backside for the tail. Remember to join them on with the clay slip. Flatten each ear a bit by pinching with your fingers.



Step 14

Using a pointed tool like a skewer or pencil, poke a pupil hole in each eye and draw on a mouth.

Step 15

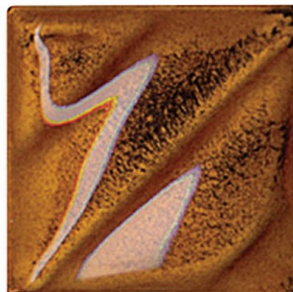
Allow the clay sculpture to dry completely. You can tell if it is dry by holding it to your cheek. If it feels cold or damp it is still wet. If it feels dry it is ready to be bisque fired in a kiln to cone 05.



Step 16

Apply a low fire glaze to the bisque-ware and fire again in the kiln.

The glaze used for this bear was:
Amaco's **Liquid Gloss Glaze LG-65 Amber**





Your Honey Bear is complete.

