



KidsQuest & BAM Classroom from Home Clay & Craft

Get your hands dirty as you learn, create, and play! This series of art activities is dedicated to creating art inspired by all things pottery and craft making. We hope this at home curriculum will help you make art, learn about a new process, and get outside!

This classroom is for...

Artists, scientists, and explorers entering 1st – 3rd grade (and their grown-ups!)

How this works:

Because we were unable to host summer camps at BAM this year, we thought we would offer our curriculum to our community! In this document, we have suggestions for craft activities, including supply lists and instructions, book and video recommendations, resources, and MORE for families to learn together. At the end of this document, we have our own classroom timeline with how we would organize a week at KidsQuest and BAM—you can use that as guidance or get creative and do your own thing!

Whether you pick one activity, pick a few, or do them all, we would love to see your work and will be sharing them in our Youth and Family emails! Send questions, comments, and photos of your art to education@bellevuearts.org.

Activities for this week:

Patterned Pots Stacked Recycled Sculptures Exploding Paint Bags
Goop-tastic Gak Salt Dough Jewelry

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR THIS WEEK

Art supplies:

- Air-dry clay (we like the Crayola brand) or Model Magic
- Paint
- Paintbrushes
- Yarn or ribbon
- Powdered tempera paint OR ground-up chalk
- White school glue
- Washable markers (Red, Blue, and Yellow)

Recycled or found at home:

- Wax paper
- Cooling rack
- Flour
- Salt
- Water
- Cardboard & other recyclable materials
- Ziplock Bags
- Vinegar
- Baking Soda
- Measuring Cups
- Skewer
- Rolling pin or smooth empty bottle
- Small bowls
- Large mixing bowls
- Craft knife or butter knife

Specialty supplies:

- Mod Podge
- Beads
- Dowel
- Poster Board
- Stamps or found objects with texture
- Borax

Patterned Pots



MATERIALS NEEDED

- Air-dry clay, Model Magic, or salt dough (see salt dough recipe in Salt Dough Jewelry activity)
- Wax paper
- Tempera paint
- Paintbrushes
- Sponge
- Cooling rack
- Cup of water
- Stamps or textured found objects
- Rolling pin or smooth empty bottle
- Small bowls (not paper as the clay/dough will stick when drying)
- Craft knife or butter knife

INSTRUCTIONS FOR A PINCH POT

1. Gather about a cup of clay from the container and roll it into a smooth ball.
2. At the center of the ball of clay, place your thumb at the center and push down until it's about halfway through—do this as firmly as you can, but don't push all the way through the ball.
3. Begin to create your pot by pinching your clay. Keep your thumb in the center and your pointer finger on the outside, then squeeze together. Continue this motion around your ball of clay to make a wider hole.
4. Continue pinching around the edge of your clay until a bowl begins to form. As needed, wet your fingers with water to smooth out cracks in the clay.
5. When you've worked the clay into a bowl, you can take a sponge softly wipe around the edges to smooth out any fingerprints or cracks that may have formed.
6. Add additional texture to your pinch pot by using stamps or found objects to create patterns on the outside. Gently press these objects into your bowl to leave an impression. Once you are complete adding textures, let your pinch pot dry completely on a sheet of wax paper! This may take 2 – 3 days.
7. Once your pot is dry, bring out the textures you created by adding some paint to your pot with your brush.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR A STAMPED CLAY BOWL

1. Roll your clay or dough out with a rolling pin or smooth bottle until it is about a quarter inch thick. .
2. Use a bowl as a mold. If you would like your pattern to be on the inside of your bowl, you will be draping your clay inside your bowl mold. If you would like your pattern to be outside of your bowl, flip your bowl upside down and drape the rolled clay over the outside of your bowl.
3. Trim and peel away excess clay that doesn't fit on your mold.
4. Use stamps and found objects to create a design on your clay. Press firmly to imprint, but not so hard that it goes all the way through your clay!
5. Allow to dry completely before removing from your bowl mold.
6. Use ink or paint to decorate your artwork!

Patterned Pots CONTINUED

Additional ideas and questions:

- Where will you display your bowl? How will you use it?
- What has inspired the design of your patterned pot?
- BAM Arts Fair Artists [Larry Halverson](#) uses patterns & impressions to design his ceramic bowls. What patterns can you create?
- If you have enough dough, consider making a series of patterned pots that range in size so they can rest inside each other.
- Do you think we can make a bowl that is a different shape? How?
- If you don't have stamps, what else could we use to make an impression in the clay?

Skills and Concepts:

- Building attention span: children will be working on their ability to focus and foster hand-eye coordination.
- Improving mathematical understanding: children will be creating patterns and utilizing 3-dimensional shapes.
- Vocabulary building: children will use words like pound, pinch, roll, flatten, poke, squeeze, etc.



Illustrations: Courtesy of [pikisuperstar](#)

Goop-tastic Gak



MATERIALS NEEDED

- White school glue
- Borax (can be found in the laundry aisle of the grocery store)
- Measuring cups
- 2 large mixing bowls
- Water
- Washable markers (red, blue, yellow)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Start by making your gak:
 - Measure one cup of school glue into a bowl and add one cup of warm water, mix well to combine
 - In your other bowl, mix one tablespoon of Borax into one cup of warm water, mix well to combine.
 - Pour your Borax mixture into your glue and water mixture, keep mixing until it comes together—using your hands is best for this. The more you mix, the less sticky it becomes.
2. After you have finished making your gak, start adding colors with your markers by drawing directly onto the surface of the gak.
3. Keep your gak fresh by storing it in a resealable container!

Additional Ideas and Questions:

- Do you think this is a liquid or a solid?
- What happens as you start to add the colors? What colors do you see?
- What do you think will happen when you mix the glue with the Borax solution? Is it changing or staying the same?
- What colors do you think you can make when coloring on the gak with primary colors?
- Consider making the white gak and then divide it into three pieces, color each piece separately and then mix them together to create new colors.
- Add a few drops of food coloring or liquid watercolor to the Borax solution before mixing it with the glue solution to create an entire batch of a single color.

Skills and Concepts:

- Cause and effect: hypothesizing what is going to happen, the changes in the materials.
- Strengthening fine motor skills: as children measure ingredients and manipulate the gak, they are building their hand strength and increasing dexterity.
- Developing sensory awareness: children have the opportunity to touch, smell, see, and even hear while making and playing with gak.

Stacked Recycled Sculptures



MATERIALS NEEDED

- Recycled materials from around your house like a large cardboard box, produce containers, toilet paper rolls
- Dowel or skewer
- Air-dry Clay
- Paint
- Paintbrushes
- Cup of water for rinsing brushes

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Start a piece of clay into a sphere about the size of a golf ball. Stick your dowel or skewer into the clay, like a flag pole to, create your base. Make sure the bottom of your base is slightly flat so your sculpture doesn't topple over.
2. Let the base of your sculpture dry.
3. In the meantime, create the different shapes of your recycled materials that will form your sculptures! Collect recycled materials from around your house, like pieces of cardboard, produce containers, or toilet paper rolls. With the help of a grown-up, use scissors to cut these materials into a variety of stackable shapes.
4. With the help of a grown-up, use a pen, skewer, or scissor to punch a hole the size of your dowel in the center of each shape, so that the pieces can be slid and stacked on the dowel.
5. Once you've created all of your shapes, use a paintbrush to add color. You can use all one color (monochromatic), a mix of colors, or maybe some colorful patterns.
6. Let your colorful shapes dry overnight.
7. Create your sculpture by sliding shapes onto the dowel. Be sure to try out different combinations!
8. When you are all finished designing your sculpture, find a place to display your new work of art!

Additional ideas and questions:

- What shapes can we make? What other shapes can you think of?
- What order of shapes & materials will you choose?
- Pacific Northwest artist [Hernan Paganini](#) creates sculptures made of recycled materials and found objects from around his neighborhood & recycling plants. How can you incorporate using similar materials in your summer artmaking?

Skills and Concepts:

- Developing creative decision-making: as children make choices about the design of their sculpture by selecting colors, patterns, shapes, and the arrangement of the shapes.
- Improving mathematical understanding: children will practice recalling and creating three-dimensional shapes.
- Strengthening fine motor skills: children will build their dexterity by holding paintbrushes, using scissors, and sliding shapes onto the dowel.

Salt Dough Jewelry



MATERIALS NEEDED

Salt dough beads:

- 4 cups of flour
- 1 cup of salt
- 1.5 cups of water
- Circle cookie cutter
- Butter knife
- Skewer

Jewelry-making:

- Yarn or ribbon
- Beads
- Paint
- Paintbrushes
- Skewer

INSTRUCTIONS

1. With a grown-up, mix all of the salt dough ingredients together in a large bowl using a wooden spoon. When it becomes tough to stir, use your hands to finish mixing the dough.
2. Knead the dough together by firmly pushing your fists into the dough to flatten it and then folding the dough in half back over itself. Repeat this for a few minutes until the dough is smooth and pliable.
3. Divide the dough into smaller sections and begin making your beads and jewelry. Preheat your oven to 275 F/135 C.
4. To create a pendant, roll a portion of the dough and use a cookie cutter or butter knife to cut out shapes. Use a skewer to make a hole for your yarn or ribbon.
5. To create your own beads, roll out the dough into the shape you would like your bead to be. Carefully use the skewer to poke a hole through the bead for your yarn or ribbon.
6. Once you've added your final touches, place your pieces on a baking sheet and bake in the oven for 2 – 2.5 hours, or until dry and firm to touch. Thicker pieces of dough will take longer to set.
7. Remove from the oven, let cool, and if desired paint with tempera paint & seal the beads with Mod Podge.
8. Take yarn or ribbon and thread through your beads, add other beads & objects to complete your necklace!

Additional ideas and questions:

- What is your personal style?
- BAM artist Ron Ho designed many beautiful and intricate wearable works of art. Similar to [Ron Ho: A Jeweler's Tale](#), consider how can you tell a story with the design of your jewelry?
- If you have enough dough, consider making a couple necklaces to give to your friends, neighbors, and loved ones.
- You can use a salt dough recipe for any number of great crafts and clay activities.

Skills and Concepts:

- Strengthening fine motor skills: as children build their hand strength and increase their dexterity by manipulating the dough.
- Developing creative decision-making: as children make choices and explore ways of telling a story through their artmaking.

Exploding Paint Bags

AN OUTDOOR ACTIVITY



MATERIALS NEEDED

- Ziplock bags
- Vinegar
- Baking soda
- Powdered tempera paint or ground-up chalk
- Poster board (if you would like to keep your artwork; it will wash away with water or after a good rain)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Add 1/3 cup of vinegar to a ziplock bag.
2. To the bag, add 2 tablespoons of powdered tempera or ground chalk.
3. Add 2 tablespoons of baking soda and quickly zip the bag closed.
4. Place it on the sidewalk or poster board and wait...watch it explode!

Additional Ideas & Questions:

- What do you think will happen when we mix the vinegar with the baking soda?
- What colors should we use to make the primary colors? What will happen when these colors mix?
- If you have enough supplies, consider making a large-scale work of art on your poster board or the sidewalk.

Skills and Concepts:

- Practicing scientific inquiry: as they begin to ask questions and hypothesize as to what will happen.
- Cause and Effect: Why is this happening?

OUTDOOR PLAY

Dirt Investigation

Bring bowls, hand shovels, pitchers of water, tweezers, and magnifying glasses to explore the wonders of the outdoors. Playing in the dirt and mud is a very fun way for us to learn with our hands—maybe by making a mud pie, finding some bugs, or investigating the way dirt mixes with water.

RESEARCH IDEAS

- History of clay or ceramic art all over the world.
- The Pacific Northwest is home to many ceramic artists! Check out Pottery Northwest artist-in-resident [Ling Chun](#) or BAM ARTSfair artist [Deborah Schwartzkopf](#).
- Research Pacific Northwest mixed-media artists like [Maria Phillips](#) and [Lauren Prado](#). How does their artwork inspire your creativity and the materials you use?

Podcasts

- Best Day Yet: “You are Filled with Creative Ideas”
- Brains On!: “Soil: Can you dig it?”
- Napcast: “Finding Strength Amid Covid-19”
- Wow in the World – NPR
- But Why: A Podcast for Curious Kids
- KidsQuest Children’s Museum: Love of Learning

Websites & Videos

- Storytime videos at [KidsQuest Children’s Museum](#)
- Storytime videos at [The Conscious Kid](#)
- Visit fun & inspiring social media pages like [Creation Space](#) and [Home Grown Friends](#)
- Exhibiting artists of the [2021 BAM ARTSfair](#)

Books

- *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill
- *Beautiful Oops!* by Barney Saltzberg
- *It Began with a Page: How Gyo Fujikawa Drew the Way* by Kyo Maclear
- *The Museum Book* by Jan Mark
- *Yayoi Kusama – From Here to Infinity* by Sarah Suzuki

HOME CLASSROOM PLAN

Day 1:

- Warm up and get inspired for Clay & Crafts with a podcast & doodles! Listen to “You are Filled with Creative Ideas” by Best Day Yet while making a continuous line drawing on some scrap paper. Can you draw a person or object without picking up your marker or colored pencil?
- Get started by making salt dough beads! Complete steps 1 – 6 for the Salt Dough Jewelry project. Make sure you wrap up and refrigerate any remaining dough to use for other projects.
- While the salt dough is baking (steps 6), watch a story time video.

Day 2:

- Get your day started by building your Patterned Pots by completing steps 1 – 6 for the pinch pot or stamp clay bowl-making methods.
- While you’re working on your pots consider listening to a podcast or music. What sort of soundtrack is good for getting creative and making art?
- Spend the afternoon outside with some exploding paint bags! Complete steps 1 – 4.

Day 3:

- Create your goop-tastic gak!
- Research artists that use recycled and reusable materials in their art. Do they create 2D or 3D works of art? Get inspired by their artwork and collect recycled materials from around your house.
- Get started on the Stacked Recycled Sculptures by completing steps 1 – 7.

Day 4:

- Research project on ceramic art or artists & share with your family what you’ve discovered!
- Finish your recycled sculptures and patterned pots by painting your creations, and string your salt dough jewelry onto some yarn!
- Share your creations! Take pictures of your photos and send them to education@bellevuearts.org to participate in our end-of-the-summer online art exhibition!