

SALT CLAY PINCH POT, ANIMAL OR MASK



Native American Indians used resources around them to produce the things they needed. They used natural plant materials growing in their region to make baskets and they used natural clays of their region to make pottery and other clay vessels. You can make clay using resources around you.

Ask your parents for permission and then look in your kitchen for the items listed below to make your own clay!

To Make Salt Clay You Will Need:

- 1 cup flour
- 7/8 cup salt
- 3/8 cup water
- 1/4 cup oil
- Measuring cup
- Large bowl
- Large wooden spoon
- Wax paper

Other Things You Might Need To Complete Your Salt Clay Projects:

- White glue
- Beads
- Feathers
- Raffia or twine
- Acrylic paint
- Small paint brushes

Making the Salt Clay:

Step 1: Put the flour, salt and oil in the mixing bowl and stir everything together with the wooden spoon until it is mixed completely.

Step 2: Slowly add the water and use the spoon to mix it into the flour, salt and oil. When the ingredients are completely mixed they will lump together and form a kind of ball.

Step 3: Turn the salt clay out onto a piece of wax paper.

Making a Salt Clay Pinch Pot:

Step 1: Pull off a piece of the salt clay and form it into a ball.

Step 2: Hold the ball in one hand, with the other hand push your thumb almost to the bottom of the clay.

Step 3: Pinch the clay between you thumb and fingers to form the sides of the bowl until you have the bowl the size you want.



Making Salt Clay Animals:

Step 1: Pull off a piece of the salt clay and form it into a ball.

Step 2: Gently pull and push the clay to form legs, the head, the tail and the other parts of your animal.

Step 3: Think about making a bear, bird, snake, lizard, rabbit, fish, frog, turtle or horse.
Make the animal shapes as simple as possible.

Making a Salt Clay Mask:

Step 1: Make a round ball of the salt clay that fits easily in the palm of your hand.

Step 2: Put the clay ball on a piece of wax paper and flatten the ball until it is about an inch thick. As you flatten the ball, push the ball into the shape you want your mask to be. You might want an oval shaped mask or maybe one that is square or rectangular.

Step 3: Decide where the eyes should be. Push your thumbs into the clay to make the eye sockets.

Step 4: Use small clumps of clay to shape separate pieces into a nose and mouth. Put the nose and mouth on the mask and smooth the edges into the face.

Step 5: If you want to add feathers and beads to your mask, poke holes into the clay where you plan to add these items before baking. After baking you can glue them on.

Do not bake clay with beads and feathers attached!



Baking Your Salt Clay Creations:

Salt clay can be baked in the oven to make your pottery and animals hard. Put your items on a cookie sheet or in a pie tin and bake at 300 degrees for 1 to 2 hours.

Ask your parents for help and permission before you use the oven!

Painting and Decorating Your Salt Clay Creations:

Once your clay is baked and cools, you can paint it with acrylic paints. You can also glue on beads and feathers.

You can make a Zuni fetish from your small salt clay animals. Fetish sculptures are small carvings of animals that are used in ceremonies to bring good luck. Wrap a piece of raffia or twine around the animal's waist, then tie on beads and a small feather.

