

CLOUD CLAY™

Puffs of Clay that Dry in Air



CREATE 4-LEGGED CREATURES IN AMACO® CLOUD CLAY™

BY MICHELLE ZIMMERMAN

Tools & Materials

- AMACO® Cloud Clay™ in colors of your choice (yellow, purple and blue were used for this project)
- Wiggly eyes
- 5 toothpicks
- Clay modeling tool
- Scissors
- Star shaped clay cutter (optional)

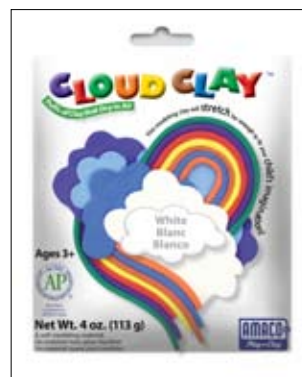
LESSON GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Create three-dimensional sculptures using modeling clay.
- Understand the defining characteristics of various animals.

NATIONAL VISUAL ARTS STANDARDS ADDRESSED:

- Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes.
- Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines.

We have instructions for making and embellishing a 4-legged horse or unicorn with step-by-step photos that can be adapted for other animals. We also have general information and tips about shaping all kinds of animals from the same components on back page.



PICTURES & INSTRUCTIONS

Technique

1. Cut your packet of clay into 16 pieces – this makes it easy to measure just how much you need. Take 5 pieces of yellow clay for the horse. You will need 1 piece of purple for the mane and tail and extra clay for wings and other fun embellishments.

2. Take one and a half pieces of yellow clay and cover four of the toothpicks for the legs.

3. Take two and a half pieces of yellow clay and roll a large oval for the body. Pull the neck out of the body angling it upwards. Place a toothpick in the neck.

4. Take one piece of yellow clay and roll a small oval of clay for the head. Use your thumb to push up on the back of the head to make a flat surface to join the head to the body.

5. Press the head onto the toothpick to join it to the body.

6. Press the legs into the body making sure the toothpicks enter the body, and that the clay at the top of the legs bond with the clay on the horse's body. Stand the horse upright and make sure it balances on its feet.

7. Using the purple clay, shape the horse's mane and attach it along the top of the horse's neck and head.

Make a tail from some of the purple clay and attach to the horse's body.

Using scissors, make cuts along the horse's mane to make it look more realistic.

8. Attach small balls of yellow clay to the head where the nostrils will go. Press the rounded tip of a modeling tool into the center of the clay balls to form the horse's nostrils.



9. Take a small amount of purple clay and roll it into two small balls. Flatten the balls to a flat circle and place one wiggly eye on each and bend the clay around the eyeball.

Attach the eyes in position on the horse's face.



10. Make two small teardrops of yellow clay for the ears. Flatten them slightly and attach to the horse's head.



11. Make four small balls of purple clay for the hooves. Flatten the middle of the balls with your finger and cut off one edge of the flattened ball. Attach the remaining piece of clay to the bottom of the horse's foot as a hoof.



12. You can stop once your horse is at this stage or you can continue and add fun things to it.



TO MAKE YOUR HORSE A UNICORN (ADD STARS OR SPOTS, A HORN AND WINGS)

13. Add Stars or Spots

To make stars for the horse's back, flatten a piece of blue Cloud Clay™ until it is very thin and, when dry, punch small stars from it with a tiny metal (cookie) cutter or hand attach them to the horse.

Or instead of punching out shapes, you can add spots to your horse by taking small balls of clay, pressing them flat and then pressing them onto the horse's body and its face.



14. Add a Horn

Twist a mix of purple and yellow clay together to make a thin cone and attach to the horse's head as a horn, so it becomes a unicorn.



15. Add Wings

Flatten a sheet of blue Cloud Clay™ and cut two wing shapes from it. Once they are dry enough to hold their shape, press them into the sides of the horse.



GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING FOUR-LEGGED CRITTERS

Technique

A basic 4-legged creature consists of four legs, a body and a head. However, depending on their relative shape, the animals themselves can look very different such as a pig and a giraffe. Take a moment and think about the Cloud Clay™ critter you're making, about its height, width and its basic body shapes. Making a quick sketch may help you understand this.

Legs

If you are making an animal with short legs, break the toothpick down to the size you need. When it is covered with clay, leave some of the toothpick uncovered, as this will be pushed into the body to anchor the legs. For really tall legged animals, tape 2 toothpicks together or use a piece of thin doweling, making sure that the support runs through the entire leg and into the body.

Body

A pig or elephant is shaped like a round ball, while a buffalo or bull is shaped more like an egg shape, with the bigger end at the front of the animal. A cat, dog or bear is an egg shape with the smaller side facing the head. A giraffe or horse is an egg shape with the neck pulled out from the egg.

Neck/Support

For most animals it's best to stick a toothpick into the body or neck to help support the head. For some critters, like the giraffe, this might not work because the giraffe's neck curves and, in some cases, is very thin, so a bendable wire could be used or two toothpicks taped together for length and slightly crooked where joined.

Heads

Heads are shapes upon shapes. A bear face for example is ball (nose) on a half circle (muzzle) on a circle (head). A pig is a circle (nose) pushed flat onto a circle (head). An elephant is a circle with the nose pulled out from it. A horse, camel or giraffe is an elongated egg shape with the smaller end of the egg pushed to an angle with your thumb.

Ears, Eyes, Noses

Ear, eye and nose placement as well as any other special characteristics (a zebra's stripes, a bull's horns, a horse's mane, etc) are the final step. If necessary, prop your critter up just as you'd like it to be until it is dry enough to support its own weight, then apply details.