



LESSON 5 LEVEL A FACES AND FIGURES

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

working with a pliable material to create a 3-D figure

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

salt; flour; water; objects to make texture; tempera paint.

Recipe: This Baker's Clay should be prepared by an adult. (Do not mix more than an hour in advance) Mix thoroughly by hand

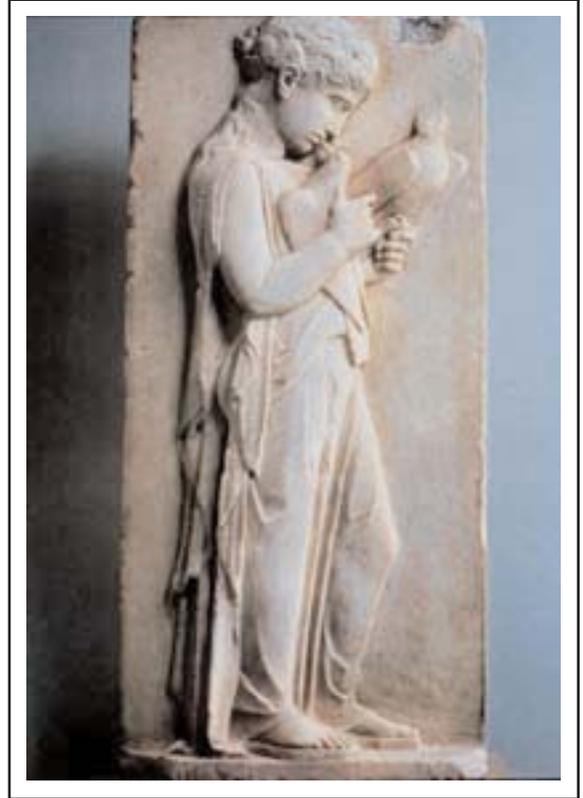
300 gm (1 cup) of salt, 600 gm (4 cups) of flour, and 3 dl (1 1/2) cups of water.

Add a bit more water if necessary, just enough to make a dough that "cleans the bowl". Knead the dough for about five minutes until it is soft and pliable. Wrap any extra dough in foil or plastic film. Squeeze out the air to prevent drying.

Finished art projects may be air-dried or baked on a foil-covered cookie sheet at 150° C (300° F) until hard all the way through and lightly browned.

1. Spend some moments just playing with the dough. Press tools like nails, paper clips and buttons into a small piece of dough. A garlic press can make stringy hair and beards.

BAKER'S CLAY PEOPLE Low-Relief Modeled Figures



Grave Stele of Girl with Pigeons Metropolitan Museum NY NY

GETTING STARTED:

Baker's Clay figures can be made to stand alone. Most children will form them flat, like cookie people, from a ball of dough about the size of a lemon.

A drop of water will act like glue to join pieces. Too much water will make the dough sticky and too hard to handle. Try out ways of making shapes and textures.



“TIPS”: Very young children need to explore the material by squeezing, poking, pounding and rolling it. When they are ready to model, they will be able to make things like figures, but don’t rush them.

Then they can be shown how to join two pieces with a drop or two of water; how to make textures and pinch out features and so forth

WORDS TO LEARN:

bas-relief (bah’ ruh-leef’): a sculpture that sticks up slightly from a surface. Bas-relief is also called “low-relief.”



Various Students Ages 4 and 5

CLEAN-UP: Left-over Baker’s Clay can be wrapped in foil and refrigerated overnight, but it does not keep well for longer periods. Warm it to room temperature and re-knead it before use. Throw away unusable dough. Return tools, paints and anything else you used, to storage.

TALK ABOUT IT: What word best describe the way the dough feels? How is modeling different for you from drawing or painting?

2. Look at some pictures of low-relief sculptured figures and see that they are attached to their background. They are not modeled “in the round.” Compare them to “cookie people.”
3. Form a figure by sticking together small bits and pieces of dough. Make them no thicker than 20 cm. (3/4 inch). Give it texture while it is still soft. If you want to hang it as an ornament or jewelry, poke a hole in it before drying.
4. Lift the finished figure onto a piece of foil. It can air-dry, flat for several days until it is hard. Or it can be baked on a cookie sheet at 120° C (250° F) for 1/2 hour for each 6 mm.(1/4 inch) of thickness.
5. The dry figure can be painted with tempera colors. You may want to glue a set of Baker’s Clay figures to a piece of wood to make a 3-D family portrait. If you seal them with clear acrylic, Baker’s Clay pieces are sturdy and long lasting.

MORE IDEAS: Small bits of Baker's Clay can be formed into beads and pendants. You can string them on yarn or ribbon to make jewelry. Make letters to spell a name or initials. Or make a whole alphabet to play with.

CONNECTIONS: Look for examples of low-relief sculpture on the buildings of your community. Sometimes you can find it on the furniture and decorations in your home. You are sure to find examples in an art museum.

