



## Modeling Compound Sculpting

**Objective:** Students will explore an additive method of sculpting with a modeling compound.

**Level:** Adaptable for Grades K through 8.

### Supplies:

- Crayola® Model Magic® (white or other colors) or other self-drying modeling compound
- Wood craft sticks
- Small zip-lock plastic bag
- Texture making items (optional)

**Process:** A room with work tables, chairs, and dry erase board is needed for this activity. Each student should be given a small zip lock plastic bag that contains a 1 oz. piece of Model Magic and wood craft stick.

The activity director writes the terms “additive sculpting” on the board and defines this term. Ask the students what 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional mean and define those terms. Define the word armature in sculpting to the students.

Discuss with the students that sculptures can be created by using some of the most common simple geometric shapes such as circles, triangles, ovals, rectangles, and a square. The activity director should draw these shapes on the dry erase board in two and three dimension.

Do an active learning example with a few students in the class. After you draw the 5 most simple common shapes on the board have them name the shapes. Then draw a circle and connect five triangles to the circle like a sun. Then choose five students and ask them to make a three-dimensional triangle giving them a small piece of the modeling compound. Save one piece for another student to do a three-dimensional circle. While the students are making their forms discuss that modeling compound air dries and you can paint it with water-based paints.

The activity director should discuss that the craft stick can be used as a tool to join the modeling compound pieces together and this should be demonstrated when putting together

the triangles and circle. The stick can also make textures, be used as an armature or as part of the sculpture.

After your demonstration of piecing together the circle and five triangles, each student should receive their bag with the modeling compound and craft stick and begin their sculpture. Model Magic is a very pliable compound and much lighter to handle than clay.

Discuss possible themes that the students can sculpt such as animals, human forms, boats, cars, etc. Ask them to select something of personal interest or familiarity to them or a sculpture they saw in the museum. Encourage them to create non-representational or abstract forms, too.

The activity director should let the students work at his or her own pace and assist them with problem solving techniques. Music can be played to add to the creative atmosphere and enjoyable art experience. Show examples of completed modeling compound sculptures if you have them.

If on a field trip, the activity director or teacher can write each student's name on their craft stick, bag, or on a sticky label (for the bag). This makes it easier for them to recognize their bag upon arrival back at school.

If they are not finished, they can put the sculpture back in the plastic bag and seal it. When they get home they can continue to work on their sculpture. The sculpture, when finished, can be left out to air dry and harden for 24 hours. After it air dries, it can be painted with tempera paints, watercolor, acrylics, or markers. You can also color it with markers when wet and then knead it until it is mixed and solid. This compound is non-crumbling, non-staining, non-messy, and doesn't cling to skin or room surfaces. It can also be adhered to plastic, wood, cardboard, and other support materials without glue. Many other sculpting activities can be designed with this media. This activity can take 30 to 45 minutes.

Note: You can design a powerpoint presentation with visuals for this lesson plan.

### **National Common Core Standards for Visual Arts**

#### **K**

VA:Cr1.1.Ka Engage in exploration and imaginative play with materials.

VA:Cr2.1.Ka Through experimentation, build skills in various media and approaches to artmaking.

#### **1st grade**

VA:Cr1.1.1a Engage collaboratively in exploration and imaginative play with materials.

VA:Cr2.1.1a Explore uses of materials and tools to create works of art or design.

**2nd grade**

VA:Cr1.2.2a Make art or design with various materials and tools to explore personal interests, questions, and curiosity.

**3rd grade**

VA:Cr2.1.3a Create personally satisfying artwork using a variety of artistic processes and materials.

**4th grade**

VA:Cr1.1.4a Brainstorm multiple approaches to a creative art or design problem.

**5th grade**

VA:Cr1.2.5a Identify and demonstrate diverse methods of artistic investigation to choose an approach for beginning a work of art.

**6th grade**

VA:Cr1.1.6a Combine concepts collaboratively to generate innovative ideas for creating art.

**7th grade**

VA:Cr2.3.7a Apply visual organizational strategies to design and produce a work of art, design, or media that clearly communicates information or ideas.

**8th grade**

VA:Cr2.1.8a Demonstrate willingness to experiment, innovate, and take risks to pursue ideas, forms, and meanings that emerge in the process of artmaking or designing.