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Art Projects for the entire family,
presented by Anne's Treasures



MODELING CLAY ANIMALITOS

MATERIALS

Crayola Modeling Clay*

Paint Brushes

Scissors

Paper Towel

Acrylic Paint

Toothpicks

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*If you do not have modeling clay, there is a **recipe for Salt Dough at the end** that can replace the modeling clay.

HISTORY

Alebrijes (Spanish pronunciation: [ale'βrixes]) are whimsical carvings depicting animals and fantastical creatures painted with intense colors and intricate patterns. Although these distinctive cultural artifacts are often assumed to represent a long-established tradition of Mexican folk art, they only began to appear in the 1940s. The word, Alebrijes, which has no linguistic origin, appeared to papier maché folk artist Pedro Linares during a high fever hallucination. Linares imagined fantastical colorful animals, donkeys with butterfly wings, a rooster with bull horns, a lion with an eagle head, and all of them were shouting one word, "Alebrijes." From Linares's papier maché Alebrijes came the inspiration for carved wood animalitos from the villages of Oaxaca, Mexico.

TIPS

- Crayola Modeling Clay is like marshmallows, in that it sticks to itself very easily. This means that if you make a mistake, use scissors to separate the pieces instead of pulling it apart.
- Do not make a tall animalito because the modeling clay will not support its weight. It will start to 'melt' and tilt downward unless support is added.



PROCEDURE

1

Cut the modeling clay into two pieces and roll each one into a ball.

- One piece will turn into the body, and the other into the legs/arms/tail.

2

Roll the ball between your hands to make an oval. Pinch one end and shape it into the head. Lift the head upward and round out the head and snout. Gently squeeze and shape the body, see photo for reference.

3

Use scissors to cut the second ball into individual parts: legs, ears, and tail. Roll each part into a ball first. Size each piece appropriately, to avoid tiny legs and giant ears.

- Legs: roll your ball against the table to turn it into a thick cylinder. The front legs should be slightly longer and skinnier than the back legs.
- Ears: use your thumb to press a new ball into the opposite palm to flatten it out. Pinch the top to form a triangular shape, similar to a petal.
- Tail: roll it using the table, making a snake shape. Do not roll it too thin or it will break.

4

Attach all the parts to the body. Press gently to adhere the clay together. Use the photos as a reference on how to bend the legs to form the paws.

- Tail: use half of a toothpick if you want the tail to lift upward. Push the toothpick into the body, then wrap the clay around the toothpick.

5

Use a toothpick to make small holes for eyes and lines for toes.

6

Paint the animalito using basic shapes, dots, stripes, and zigzags.

BRIEF STEPS FOR AN ARMADILLO



DIY SALT DOUGH

Salt dough can easily be made at home and used to create various forms and shapes. Salt dough is made using flour, salt, water and mixing them together. Once all the ingredients are mixed, the clay can then be used to make shapes and forms. You can use tools to help you create various textures and shape your dough. Some tools can be a fork, a butter knife, a rolling pin, cookie cutters, and even toothpicks. Once your clay has dried and hardened, you can then paint or decorate it anyway you choose.

HELPFUL TIPS

- Use regular table salt, as coarse salt will make the dough very grainy and bumpy.
- You can sift your flour before mixing to get rid of any clumps.
- If you have clay tools, use them for better results.
- Store any unused dough in a Ziplock bag or an air-tight container and store in the refrigerator/ it must be used within a week.
- It is recommended to paint your dough creations with acrylic paint after they have hardened.

MATERIALS

Salt (½ cup)

Flour (1 cup)

Water (⅓ cup)

Large Bowl / Measuring Cups

Materials with an (*) are optional, use only if available.

DOUGH

- Measure ½ cup of Salt and pour it into the bowl.
- Measure 1 cup of flour and pour it into the bowl. If you have a sifter, sift the flour to remove clumps or debris beforehand.
- Slowly stir in ⅓ of a cup of water into the bowl until the dough has begun to form.
- Take the dough out of the bowl and knead it with your hands.
- Once the dough is smooth and evenly mixed you can use it.
- Store any excess clay in a Ziploc bag or air-tight container. Use within a week.

Source:

Learning4Kids. How to make Salt Dough recipe?

<https://www.learning4kids.net/2012/12/09/how-to-make-salt-dough-recipe/>. Accessed April 13, 2020.

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