

Clay Jack-o-Lanterns (Middle School)

Week 1

THIS MONTH'S OBJECTIVES

- learn the pinch pot method of building
- continue to build community and critiquing skills
- learn to join clay with the scoring and slip method

MONTHLY PROJECT:

Clay Jack-o-lantern finished with paint and varnish

PROJECT BENCHMARKS:

WEEK 1: Build pumpkin from two pinch pots. Design your jack-o-lantern. **DRY TO LEATHER HARD.**

WEEK 2: Carve leather-hard clay with jack-o-lantern faces

WEEK 3: Finish carving; add finishing details. **ALLOW TO DRY COMPLETELY**

WEEK 4: Complete FINAL POT with paint and varnish

CLASS OUTLINE:

:00 Arrival point presentation (artist: Christy Crews Dunn) and journaling

:05 Introductions and expectations

New month! Introduce anyone new...go over expectations and the space

Class expectations: Have fun, stay safe, respect studio, respect others

:10 Journals

Invite students to share their journal with a neighbor

Invite students to share with the larger group (maybe someone wants to share something cool they saw in someone else's journal!)

:20 Clay handbuilding lesson

This month we're working in clay!

Handbuilding is building without using a wheel

We'll be learning/using a pinch pot building technique

Demonstrate how to join clay so it doesn't fall apart when dry

:35 Building a Jack-o-lantern

Show everyone how to make a pinch pot and then join them into a ball.

Use score-and-slip method to join pieces

Smooth out all edges and seams. Add a stem and pumpkin "seams"

If time allows, design your face on paper.

:50 Wrapping up

Clean hands and tables. Close up clay

Recognize students who were great listeners, helpers, critiquers, etc

:00 Dismiss

Say goodbye at the door to both parents and kids!

Work to learn everyone's names!

HAND OUT REMINDERS TO FALL PARTY!

**CLEAN UP: Next week, we need the clay for this class to be LEATHER HARD...soft enough to carve without crumbling and hard enough to withstand the pressure of the knife!
Cover LOOSELY and let's monitor it closely every day.**

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Week 2

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CLASS OUTLINE:

:00 Arrival point presentation (artist: Christy Crews Dunn) and journaling

:05 Journals

Invite students to share their journal with a neighbor

Invite students to share with the larger group (maybe someone wants to share something cool they saw in someone else's journal!)

Review the posted guidelines for critiquing and giving feedback

:20 Carving lesson

Review knife safety and responsibility

Carve slowly so not to crack the clay. Light pressure. Repeated strokes.

:25 Have all the artists design their jack-o-lantern face and carve

CARVE THE TOP OFF LAST but draw it out FIRST. Make sure the candle will fit.

Once carved, artists can smooth out the cuts with a little bit of water.

Careful not to use too much water so that the walls don't collapse.

:40 Sharing time

Invite students to share their in-progress jack-o-lanterns

:50 Wrapping up

Clean hands and tables

Wrap jack-o-lanterns tightly in plastic

ADD NAMES TO THE BOTTOM OF THE JACK-O-LANTERNS

Remind students to work in their journals

:00 Dismiss

Say goodbye at the door to both parents and kids!

Work to learn everyone's names!

Reminder - Fall party coming up!

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Week 3

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- WEEK 4: Complete FINAL POT with paint and varnish

CLASS OUTLINE:

:00 Arrival point presentation (artist: Christy Crews Dunn) and journaling

:005 Find your in-progress clay jack-o-lanterns and continue working!

Goal is to finish today.

:10 Work time

:20 Demonstrate finishing techniques

Smoothing the clay with wet fingers

Adding texture and pattern

Adding details

:45 SHARING

If time allows, let the students share their finished jack-o-lanterns

:50 Wrapping up

Clean hands and tables

Place jack-o-lanterns UNCOVERED in the cubbies

Remind students to work in their journals

:00 Dismiss

Tell kids and parents -- acrylic paint NEXT week!

Say goodbye at the door to both parents and kids!

Work to learn everyone's names!

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Week 4

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MONTHLY PROJECT:

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WEEK 2: Carve leather-hard clay with jack-o-lantern faces

WEEK 3: Finish carving; add finishing details. **ALLOW TO DRY COMPLETELY**

WEEK 4: Complete FINAL POT with paint and varnish

CLASS OUTLINE:

:00 Arrival point presentation (artist: Christy Crews Dunn) and journaling

Find your DRY coil pot

:05 PAINT

Use acrylic paints

Aim for complete coverage to protect the clay

"raw" clay should be covered with varnish

Dry with hair dryers and finish with varnish spray

:50 SHARING

If time allows, let the students share their art work (or hang it on the classroom wall for a "gallery")

:55 Wrapping up

Clean hands and tables

Take pictures of each artist with their finished piece

Invite them to share their work in our student art show in January

:00 Dismiss

Say goodbye at the door to both parents and kids! Next month, INK!

Work to learn everyone's names!

POSITIVE ART CRITIQUE GUIDELINES

KINDNESS FIRST!

STATEMENTS TO GET YOU STARTED:

“The first thing I see is . . .”

“This _____ stands out for me because. . .”

“I can tell that you worked hard on _____”

ASK YOURSELF:

What part is unique?

What is the **STRONGEST** part of the composition?

What is surprising?

What questions do you have for the artist?

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

What was the hardest part?

What would you do differently next time?

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR ART
THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME FEEDBACK

