

LEARNING RESOURCE



Salt dough gargoyles

This activity is inspired by the zombie heads made by artist Jeremy Hutchison for his exhibition at Dora House – and of course, Halloween. Using an all-natural recipe you will be able to create salt dough gargoyles. Salt dough is a great sculpture material as it holds itself very well, sets hard like clay and can be painted once set.

What will I need for this project?:

Salt dough recipe:

- 250g plain flour
- 125g table salt
- 125ml water

Mix all ingredients in a bowl so that they are combined into a ball of dough. Then put your dough onto a floured worksurface and you are ready to sculpt!

Oven (to set your sculptures)

Optional items: Paint (acrylics work best), sculpture tools, paper clips

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Step one:

First, the messy step! Make your salt dough: clear a work surface and use a mixing bowl to mix all your ingredients together.



Step two:

When your salt dough is ready, transfer it from the bowl onto a work surface. Lightly flour the surface you are using to stop the dough from sticking.



Step three:

Now you are ready to start sculpting with your dough. The dough can be used to create flat, relief-type work or something more sculptural...or a mix of the two! If you want to add details you can stick pieces on using a little bit of water.



Step four:

When you are happy with your creations, you will need to set them in the oven. Set your oven at its lowest temperature, place your gargoyles onto parchment paper and bake for three hours or until hard.



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Step 5:

Once your sculptures are set, they are now ready to paint and decorate. Feel free to be as playful and experimental as you want. Use paint, glitter, pens and pencils, for example.

Optional:

Before you bake your gargoyles, bend a paperclip into a W shape and sandwich it between a piece of dough and your dough creation. This will allow you to hang your gargoyle!

