

Post-visit Classroom Activity

Objectives

1. Students use coil building techniques.
2. Students use shapes to add visual interest.

Supplies

- Self-hardening clay or air-drying clay. A variety of craft stores such as Michaels, Joann's or your local art supply stores carry this type of clay. Model Magic by Crayola also works well.
- Newspaper or canvas to cover desks
- Popsicle sticks
- Small plastic cups
- *Optional-Tempera or Acrylic paint and Acrylic sealer

Activities for Kindergarten or Primary Students

Ask students to lay a piece of newspaper on their desks. Give each student an amount of clay the size of an orange. Ask students to take $\frac{1}{4}$ of the clay and flatten it with the palms of their hands on the newspaper. Use the rim of a small plastic cup to press into the flattened clay and cut out a circle. Students will use the circle as the bottom of their coil pencil holders.

Ask students to roll small amounts of clay between the palms of their hands and then on top of the newspaper into "snakes" or coils. Students should roll five or six coils that are thicker than a thick pencil. Ask students to curl one or two of the coils into "snails" or spiral shapes. Make the sides of the cylinder with two coils approximately three inches apart and fill in with coils and spiral shapes. Use ovals and circles to fill in any open spaces on the cylinder wall. Ask students to gently scrape the coils together with the Popsicle stick to connect the coils. Students may wonder where the coils, spirals, circles and ovals went. They will be saved on the other side.

Ask students to carefully flip over the connected coils and bend the side of the cylinder around the circle bottom they cut earlier. Use the Popsicle stick to gently push the coils into the bottom circle and then push together the ends to complete the cylinder. Let air dry for approximately 24 hours.

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Activities for Intermediate or Older Students

Ask students to lay a piece of newspaper on their desks. Give each student an amount of clay the size of an orange. Ask students to take $\frac{1}{4}$ of the clay and flatten it with the palms of their hands on the newspaper. Use the rim of a small plastic cup to press into the flattened clay and cut out a circle. Students will use the circle as the bottom of their coil pencil holders.

Ask students to roll small amounts of clay between the palms of their hands and then on top of the newspaper into “snakes” or coils. Students should roll 10 or 12 coils that are as thick as a pencil. Ask students to curl a few of the coils into “snails” or spiral shapes. Make the sides of the cylinder with two coils approximately five inches apart and fill in with coils and spiral shapes. Students are welcome to break their coils into smaller coils to add to the cylinder. Use ovals or circles to fill in any open spaces on the cylinder wall. Ask students to gently scrape the coils together with the Popsicle stick to connect the coils. Students may wonder where the coils, spirals, circles and ovals went. They will be saved on the other side. Ask students to carefully flip over the connected coils and bend the side of the cylinder around the circle bottom they cut earlier. Use the Popsicle stick to gently push the coils into the bottom circle and then push together the ends to complete the cylinder. Let air dry for approximately 24 hours.

Optional Extension

You may want your students to paint their coil pencil holders with tempera or acrylic paint. If you decide to paint the pencil holders, be sure to seal with an acrylic sealer to secure the paint to the self-hardening clay.