



Developed with Ashley Monks

Volume 126 | Gr. 5-8

**Time: 10 Days**  
(48 min. class periods)

# Painting with Plasticine



## VA:Cr1.1.6a

Combine concepts collaboratively to generate innovative ideas for creating art.

## VA:Cr2.2.5a

Demonstrate quality craftsmanship through care for and use of materials, tools and equipment.

## VA:Cn10.1.6a

Generate a collection of ideas reflecting current interests and concerns that could be investigated in art making.

## Objectives

*Students will...*

- Create a 2D/3D painting using Plasticine clay
- Explore the three parts of a landscape
- Understand the color wheel
- Use 3D techniques on a 2D surface
- Create tone, tints, and dimensions
- Coat project to secure clay landscape

## Overview

Plasticine clay has been around for 100 years. The main purpose of Plasticine clay was for students to create sculptures without the clay drying. Today the modeling clay is used for many other purposes, such as this painting technique.

# Instructions

Introduce your students to a variety of Plasticine artists like painter Henry Hudson or painter/sculptor Olga Fonina. Show their images and have students pick out the numerous amount of colors each artist uses and the variety of warm vs. cool colors.

1. First discuss with your students the three parts of a landscape—foreground, mid-ground, and background. Have students brainstorm their ideas of their creative landscape, whether that be fictional or not. The more creative a design, the more interesting it will be! The foreground designs will be the main focus.
2. Demonstrate the process of smearing and adding the clay to the mat board. Then hand out 5" x 7" mat boards to students. (The 5" x 7" size is recommended; you can use whatever size you have.) A smaller board means students will use less clay, but too small of a board will result in students losing detail.
3. The first layer will be your **background**. Demonstrate each step with your own project. Mix colors together to get the correct color. Show students that projects are more interesting with mixed colors than just the colors that come in the packages, which are usually primary and secondary colors. Mix two colors like blue and white to show how to get a lighter color. Add the complementary color of blue, which is orange, to get a darker more natural color.
  - a. Smear the clay onto the mat board. Only put the colors where they are supposed to go. Light blue for the sky and green for the ground. You can leave colors not so mixed to have a swirl affect, like Van Gogh.
  - b. You might want to share a few painting examples from Vincent Van Gogh or any impressionist painter to show how their paintings look and show movement.
  - c. Add clouds and any details that might be in the sky. Have students pause after each layer and ask their classmates to critique their work.

## background



## mid-ground



4. The next layer will be the **mid-ground** area. On your table, you may create a mountain like a pancake. Flatten the clay using a rolling pin. A marker makes a great rolling pin. Leave the mountain about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick. The thicker the mountain the more 3D it will look. You will want to put in any tiny details during this step. The idea is that you will not need to touch that layer so that the colors do not blend together.
5. Next up is **foreground**. This is your last layer and the one to which you add the most detail. Think about adding textures with tooth picks, pencils, and even dry markers. This last layer will need to be popping out like in a relief or sculpture. This creates a 3D affect.
6. Coat the entire piece with Mod Podge®. Dilute Mod Podge® with water 50% each. When you coat the project it should go on clear. Wait for it to dry and coat it again for a total of three layers. If you skip the drying step between coats, just make sure the Mod Podge® is not puddling up with white areas. This will create a fog affect.

## foreground



# Materials

primary



neon



regular



mat board



- Jovi® Plastilina, 1¾ oz. Bars - Box of 30:
  - Primary colors ([9742489](#))
  - Neon colors ([9739818](#))
  - Regular colors ([9739819](#))

- Mat board, cut to size ([9725853](#))
- Mod Podge® ([1100503](#))
- Foam brushes ([9726599](#))