



Developed with Noelle Burns, Watertown Unified School District, Watertown, WI



Volume 35 | Gr. K-12

## Clay sole pins



### Outcome

Acquire a deeper awareness of clay by creating a clay pin, which is textured by the sole of a shoe and is wearable once glazed.

### Objectives

*Students will...*

- Identify a ball as a basic form
- Understand the term “texture”
- Perceive differences in textures both by touch and by sight, especially by viewing shoe soles
- Learn that a beautiful texture design can be created by pressing clay into the sole of a shoe
- Become aware of the terms: kiln, fire, cone, and glaze
- Understand glaze is a liquid clay to which silica, color, and texture have been added
- Glaze their shoe texture pins and understand that glazes are used to enhance the appearance of a ceramic piece
- Realize that art can be decorative and utilized in everyday life

# Introduction

Teachers will discuss various textures in the room including the rough texture on the bottom of shoes. This idea of textured clay pieces can also be added onto pottery for decoration or made into other forms of jewelry for older students.

A clay demonstration will also be provided for the students along with an explanation of the vocabulary words. Samples of clay pins will be viewed by the students.

## Instructions

### Step 1

Teachers will cut small uniform squares of clay in preparation for students. Students will start by rolling their clay and forming it into a ball.

### Step 2

Students will look for the most interesting texture on the bottom of their shoe. The clay ball will be placed on that spot and students will gently press down to imprint the texture into the clay. One side of the surface will be flat and the other side will have a beautiful shoe print on it.

### Step 3

Talk to students about the firing process and kilns. Teachers can fire pins. Once fired, pins can be glazed using colors placed on the table. All surface areas must be colored with no white showing. Encourage students to use different colors for their various textured areas. Again, the pins must be fired for the true glaze colors to appear. The completed clay piece will then need a pin back to become wearable art. Display and enjoy the compliments!

### STEP 1



### STEP 2



# STEP 3



AMACO® kilns can be found at [nascoeducation.com](http://nascoeducation.com)

## Air dry clay option

Substitute the firing clay listed in this lesson plan with the AMACO® Self-Hardening clays listed at the bottom of the materials list. Follow steps 1–2 as before. Let air dry, then paint with acrylics.



## Materials list

- AMACO® No. 25 Moist White Art Clay, 25-lb. carton (0800241)
- AMACO® No. 67 Moist Sedona Red Clay, 25-lb. carton (0800235)
- AMACO® Gloss Glaze K-6 Classroom Pack Sampler, 12 colors in pint jars (9724764)

### Materials list for air dry clay option

- AMACO® Self-Hardening Mexican Pottery Clay™, 5-lb. box (0300250)
- AMACO® Marblex™ Self-Hardening Clay, 5-lb. box (0300252)
- AMACO® Stonex™ Self-Hardening Clay, 5-lb. box (9732163)

