Nasco Education™

LESSON PLAN

Art

By Art Teacher Breanne George

Animal wind chimes

Volume 150 | Gr. 6–8

Time: 11 class periods

Objectives

Students will be able to ...

- Learn about clay as an artistic and utilitarian substance
- Learn the process for using clay correctly and its scientific properties
- Understand the science behind sound amplification
- Sketch a unique animal-inspired wind chime
- Create a slab-built base around an aluminum can and add their chosen design elements, including 3D and carved designs
- Use the score-slip-blend method of attaching clay features
- Use various carving, building, and texturizing techniques

National Art Standards

VA:Cr1.1.6-8 : Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

VA:Cr2.1.6-8: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

VA:Cr3.1.6-8: Refine and complete artistic work.

VA:Re7.1.6-8: Perceive and analyze artistic work.

VA:Re8.1.6-8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

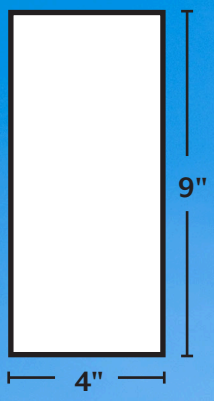
VA:Re9.1.6-8: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

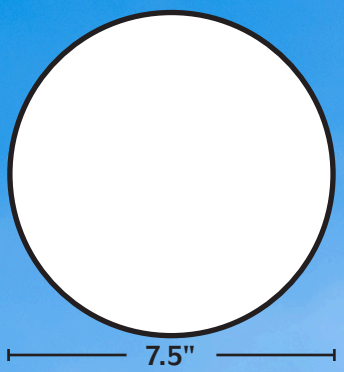
VA:Cn10.1.6-8: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

VA:Cn11.1.6-8: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

Teacher prep

1. Create templates for the slabs used in this project by cutting cardboard or heavy cardstock into the following sizes:
   - 9" by 4"
   - 7.5" diameter circle
2. Cut your wooden slats to 2" x 1" and drill a hole in each end





Step 5

Directions

1. Begin with a discussion and presentation on clay and pottery. Discuss ceramics artists who focus on animal subjects, such as Lisa Larson, and examine how she simplifies animal forms.
2. Tell students they will be choosing an animal to sculpt into a wind chime. Then, discuss facts about wind chimes and how sound waves are amplified by wind chimes, using the following resources:
   a. **Video: Fun with Musical Wind Chimes At Home (qrco.de/windchimes)**
   b. **Video: Wind Chimes: 5 Fast Facts (qrco.de/chimefacts)**
3. Have students start by choosing one or two animals they wish to create. Have them draw several sketches of their animal designs to decide which one will work best. Explain that they must include 3D elements and texture around their entire design. Remind them to focus on the basic shape of the animal and simplify its body parts.
4. Students should also sketch two simple legs to hang from inside the slab-built body to act as the chime element.
5. Once their final sketch has been approved, have students create the body of their wind chime following these steps:
   a. Wrap an empty soda can in craft paper and use masking tape to secure the paper.
   b. Roll a slab as long as the rectangular template. Then use a craft stick to cut out the template.
   c. Wrap the slab around the paper-wrapped can and seal the ends together with the score, slip, and blend method.
   d. Roll out the next slab as large as your circular template for the top and cut it out with a craft stick.
   e. Score and slip around the top of the new piece and around the edges of the can slab.
   f. Crumble a ball of tinfoil or paper towel (which will disintegrate in the kiln) and add it to the top of the can to bump up the shape. Then lay the top slab over the ball and attach it to the bottom slab.
   g. Use various texturizing, sculpting, and carving techniques to add 3D features to the cylinders.
   h. Add a hole to the top of the animal for the hanger to come through.

Step 10

6. After they are finished with the body, they should create two legs (the chimes) and use a straw to cut holes in the top of each of them so they can tie string to them.
7. At the end of each sculpting session, have each student set their can on a disposable foam plate, lay a paper towel over it and spray it with water, and wrap it in a recycled plastic bag. Have them attach a piece of masking tape with their name on it to the top of the bag.
8. When their wind chimes are finished, each student should carve their name and class code into the side, remove the can and tinfoil (if used), and set to dry.
9. When dry, fire the animals and then have them glaze their wind chimes before building them.
10. Have student follow these steps to construct their wind chimes:
    - **a.** Cut a piece of hemp rope approximately 4' long, then fold the hemp rope in half.
    - **b.** Tie a long loop approximately 6" long at the fold which will be used for hanging.
    - **c.** Slide a wooden bead up to the knot and double knot the rope under the bead.
    - **d.** Put the wooden slat on by threading each end of the string through each hole. Tie the string around each hole close to the bead.
    - **e.** Tie the ends of the strings using double knots. Make sure they hang far enough up that they hit each other and the sides of the animal's body to make sound.
    - **f.** Place a drop of glue on every knot.
    - **g.** Use a paperclip to hook the loop and thread it through the top hole on the wind chime.

Materials list

- Pencils (**NE20209**)
- 2 slabs clay (**8300160**)
- Glaze (**NE20283**)
- Aluminum can wrapped in paper for mold
- Paper towel or tin foil
- Cardboard templates for slabs (see sizes in Teacher Prep section)
- Wooden slats with 2 holes (see sizes in Teacher Prep section)
- Jute rope (**9723737**)
- Wooden beads (**NE20097**)
- Clay boards (**9729352**)
- Clay tools (**9741045**)
- Water
- Plastic bags