



# Paper Clay Cactus Pot

Middle Primary / Upper Primary

# LESSON PLAN

**TITLE:** Paper Clay Cactus Pot  
**YEAR LEVELS:** Middle Primary / Upper Primary  
**TIME FRAME:** 2 X 1 Hour Lessons

## LEARNING GOALS

Understand how to create an armature for sculptures  
Develop modelling techniques with air drying clays

## SKILLS

In this lesson students will create an armature using foil to assist them in building a 3D form cactus. They will use various modelling techniques to create realistic textures. They will learn the differences between using paper clays as opposed to natural clay.

## MATERIALS

Aluminium foil  
Magiclay (White or coloured)  
Modelling foam  
Clay tools (or tooth picks)  
Watercolour paints

## ACTIVITY BREAKDOWN

### Lesson 1

Students look at the properties of Magiclay and discuss how this is different from natural clay. Speak about the drying process as well as the texture, joining process and the weight in comparison. Teachers may want to make a class Venn Diagram exploring the differences and similarities or write down notes in a journal.

Students will then be given the task to make their own cactus or succulent pot plants using the clay. Demonstrate how an armature can be made to help build the forms of the plants. Also discuss how different tools can be used to make impressions in the clay to create realistic textures. Students plan out their project in visual diaries. Design the shape of the armature they will need as well as textures that will be used.

### Lesson 2

Students create their armature using foil and moulding it in their hand. They will then spread the Magiclay over the foil armature to cover the surface. From there students can use the clay tools to make lines or impressions in to the clay to create a realistic texture. They can also add small details with finer pieces of clay. Once the clay has dried students can colour in their work using watercolour paints or markers if they have used the white Magiclay instead of the pre coloured.

## REFLECTION / EXTENSION

**Reflection:** Discuss how the students found working with the paper clay. What did they like about it and what did they find difficult. Students can also discuss the display options for this project. Think about how the sculptures would display as a group and how they may read in different settings.

**Extension:** Students can make their own pots out of clay to sit their plants in. High level students can add small details such as flowers and different shape plants to their arrangement.