



Included materials:

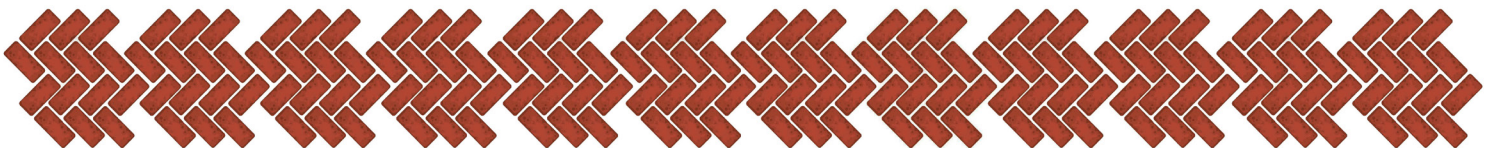
- Air Dry Clay
- Paint Brush
- Palette Tray
- Paint

Other materials you may need:

- Pencil or Tooth Pick
- Spatula

People have worked with clay for thousands of years. From utilitarian pieces for food and water, to ceremonial bowls.

Here in Bowdoinham bricks were once manufactured and shipped to Boston.



"Thank You"

- To Melissa Bardsley for designing this project.
- To the Anonimo Foundation for providing the funding.

FMI

Contact the Merrymeeting Arts Center & the Bowdoinham Public Library.



Nature Walk Discovery Pottery

This project can be a bowl, plate, tile or wall plaque.

1 Take a walk outside and gather fallen leaves, pinecones, twigs, flowers or anything that inspires you that may have a unique shape or texture.



2 Once you are home roll out some clay using a rolling pin. If you don't have a rolling pin a filled water bottle works nicely!

3 Roll the clay out so that it is approximately a ¼" thick, using the edge of a gift card or spatula you can smooth the clay by lightly wiping across the surface of the clay at a 45° angle.

4 Once smooth, take your findings from your walk and experiment with pressing the backs of leaves into the clay to leave an imprint. See what kind of patterns and designs can be made using the same leaf multiple times or even layering them.

5 Now decide if you want to make a bowl, plate, tile or wall plaque.

BOWL

Put paper towel or cling wrap inside a bowl and lay your clay on top of it to mold into the shape of the bowl.

PLATE

Put paper towel or cling wrap on a plate and place your clay on top of it to mold into the shape of the plate. trim/smooth off any edges that hang over.

TILE

Use a pencil or toothpick to cut out the shape of your tile. Feel free to use a ruler if you would like straight edges.

WALL PLAQUE

Use a pencil or tooth pick to cut the clay into the shape you would like. Then push the pencil through at the top and clean out the hole. This will be so you can hang it when it is done.

6 Let your piece dry over a couple days. Once dry, paint with acrylic paints. From here you can choose to leave it as it is or spray with an epoxy to make the paint a little more shiny and durable. Your final product will not be waterproof and is not intended to be used for food or outdoors but it can be a treasured keepsake or gift from a day that you took a walk in the beautiful woods of Maine - the same woods that we are lucky enough to call home.

Happy Creating!!



If you had fun working with clay and would like to do it again, follow the Merrymeeting Arts Center on Facebook to find out more about studio classes!