



Lyng Primary School Knowledge Organiser



Art

Topic: Art

Maya

Year 4

Spring 1

Background information for parents and teachers

Children will build upon the skills learnt in Year one and two as they work with the medium of clay. Children will learn tools and techniques needed to sculpt a Maya drinking vessel. They will learn about Maya art and how their culture is portrayed through art. Children will begin by looking closely at Maya art and discussing the recurring, iconic images used throughout art of this period. Children will then take inspiration from these to create their own design. Children will sketch patterns that they could etch onto their sculpted Maya drinking vessel. The designs commonly seen on artefacts from the Maya period are Maya Gods, Cocoa beans and Maya writing. The children will then use techniques and tools sculpt clay to create our own Maya drinking vessel, which will be later fired in the kiln.

Skills and techniques

- Create original pieces that are influenced and inspired by others
- Understand how historical societies express their culture through art
- Research and explore art from the Maya period
- Explore different clay sculpting techniques
- Understand vocabulary specifically relating to clay and sculpting
- Design and develop ideas using a sketch book
- Sketch Maya inspired designs
- Use/ sculpt clay
- Create a pinch pot
- Score and slip the clay pot
- Carve intricate designs into the clay
- Painting and glazing the final sculpture

Spring One SCULPTING WITH CLAY MAYA DRINKING VESSELS



Vocabulary

Spelling	Definition
Sculpting	Create or represent (something) by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques.
Intricate	Detailed or complex
Slab	A slab is a flat 'pancake' of clay made with your hands or a rolling pin.
Coil	A coil is a long, thin rope of clay made by rolling with your hands.
Kiln	The kiln is a special oven that gets very hot to turn clay into a ceramic.
Pinch Pot	A bowl made by pinching a sphere of clay
Score	Wet clay is joined together by scoring or roughly scratching
Slip	Adding liquid clay called slip. This seals the pieces together.
Ceramic	Ceramic is the word for fired clay.
Glaze	Glaze is painted on and fired until it's flossy. It is an overlay or cover with a smooth, shiny coating or finish.

Agreed outcome:

A sculpted clay drinking vessel inspired by Maya designs and culture.

Maya culture and artwork.

The Maya were a civilisation who lived in modern-day Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras and El Salvador. The Maya created many different types of artwork. Their art depicted their religious beliefs, their way of life, wars they had fought, how they sacrificed people and their kings. Maya kings had a desire to be remembered and art was the best way they could achieve this. Many sculptures were made of stone. The Maya also made cooking pots, bowls, jars and vases from clay. These vessels often had decorative patterns. They painted the vessels in a style called polychrome using a range of colours, such as orange, red and yellow. The decorations were from Maya mythology and everyday life. These pots are of great importance for archaeologists trying to understand more about the Maya era.

