



EGYPTIAN TILES

"A colorful and fun way to create Egyptian tiles that replicate the style of the ancient Egyptian wall paintings... well, almost."

M a t e r i a l s

Clay	Slab Roller (Rolling Pin)
Mayco Stroke & Coat Glazes	Shims- for Clay Thickness
Zip-Lock Bags	Design Tools- Pencil, Paper Clips
Black Non-Sanded Grout	Cardboard / Aluminum Foil
Rubber gloves	Grout

C r e a t i n g t h e T i l e

Show students examples of Egyptian tomb or sarcophagus paintings. Use lesson plan titled "Drawing Egyptian Style"

Students can modify their pictures by adding images that represent their life and hobbies.

Students then design a pattern for tile from their chosen picture or drawings.

A piece of cardboard cut and covered with foil creates a great working surface. Students can slide their project into a large zip-lock bag for easy storage so tile does not dry out. Make sure cardboard is completely covered or the clay will dry out.

Roll out clay slabs. This can be done on either a slab roller or by using sticks (3/8 inch thick) and a rolling pin. Rough cut shape so that is approximately 1/2 inch larger than tile pattern.

Place pattern on to of clay and trace with a pencil, indenting into clay slightly (a light spray of clear sealant on the back of the pattern will prevent paper from sticking to clay).

Remove Pattern slowly. Start carving out grooves (interstice) using pencils. The best method is to slant the pencil at a 45-degree angle, pulling toward you. Clean the clay off the tip of pencil very frequently (about every inch). This will keep the grooves clean and prohibit the build-up of clay from around the edges. Grooves should be at least 1/16 wide and about 1/8 inch deep. If grooves are too deep the tile is likely to crack.

Double-check the grooves to make sure no extra carving or cleaning is needed. Add holes for hanging if desired.

Allow tiles to dry on a drying rack or vented shelving. Flip tiles over frequently while drying to prevent warping.

Fire greenware tile.

Apply glazes to individual tile areas. Refer to glaze container for recommended number of coats. Use clear glaze (or colored) on areas where gold leaf will be applied. This creates a smooth surface for the gold leaf. Keep glaze out of grooves. Fire tiles in kiln.

Teacher should mix grout (read safety instructions). Apply grout as per instructions on package. Students should be supervised in applying grout. Rubber gloves should be used.

Clean up and buff tile clean.

Add gold leaf where desired using gold leaf and gold leaf adhesive.

Helpful Hints

Any glaze can be used for this project. Mayco Stroke & Coat glazes are the type that are used in commercial “glaze & fire” ceramic stores that have been popular recently. Though there is a variety of colors it is often difficult to find a true red. If the tiles are used only for decoration I have allowed students to leave these areas unglazed. After the tile has been grouted students can use red paint in these area. Once completely dry a coat of clear fingernail polish will give the appearance of glaze.



SKETCH OF TILE DESIGN



CLAY CARVED WITH DESIGN



GLAZES ADDED ON BISQUE



GLAZES AFTER BEING FIRED



GROUT IS ADDED AND THEN THE TILE IS GOLDLEAFED