

Birds of Paradise

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Lesson Plan

Description: In this lesson, the students will study Birds of Paradise on the Island of New Guinea, they will investigate the shapes, colours and textures of the birds then create their own Bird of Paradise using the craft techniques of moulding and pouring.

Age Suitability: aged 7-11

Time: About 2-3 hours.

Learning Aims: Investigate life forms from around the world to learn how nature uses colour and shape. Use this information to design and make craft based art.

Curriculum Targets: Selecting, sorting and presenting information, sketchbook recording, using colour imaginatively, designing and inventing original ideas, making birds using craft techniques; moulds and pouring.

Things you'll need: This project requires that students visit the website www.birdsofparadiseproject.org where they will find photos and videos of birds of paradise, A4 paper, black marker pens, clear plastic document wallets, plasticine, PVA glue, glitter, food colouring or inks, assorted feathers, beads, sequins etc, wire and thread.

Preparation: For very little ones you might use an extruder to make long pipes of plasticine or modelling clay and have the PVA mixed up with the inks or colouring ready for them to pour. However, I like the students to be part of the full process and I allow them to make everything from scratch.

Extending: Once the students have learned the method of making a mould and pouring, they can create their own forms, drawing simple shapes such as cars, monsters, butterflies etc and making their own designs.

Supporting & SEN: some pre-drawn bird shapes are included for the children to use, they may need some help moulding the clay to fit around the shape.

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Success Criteria: If the students have made drawings, notes and records in their sketchbooks of Birds of Paradise, as well as designing and making their own Bird of Paradise hen they will have made GOOD progress. More detailed sketchbook records that have used personal study outside of class with skillful outcomes will probably be EXCELLENT progress. A lack of sketchbook study, poorly presented and unfinished work will probably be WORKING TOWARDS class standard.

Assessment Guidance: Look for sketchbooks pages that layout sketches, notes and photos skilfully, using colour to decorate pages and where thought is given to how the whole page looks. Students should only select information that is relevant to them. Good outcomes at the making stage have kept the bird body shape and successfully added decoration and colour to their own designs and intentions.

Tips: Be patient at the drying stage. The glue takes a few days to set. It should be solid and hard. Students can easily add more glitter and decoration later. You can also fill shapes with beads then pour glue over for a cool effect. Make sure students press the modelling clay firmly to the plastic wallet.

Artist Links: Visit www.pinterest.com/paulcarneyarts/birds-of-paradise/ You can use these resources, if for any reason the website is not working or is blocked.

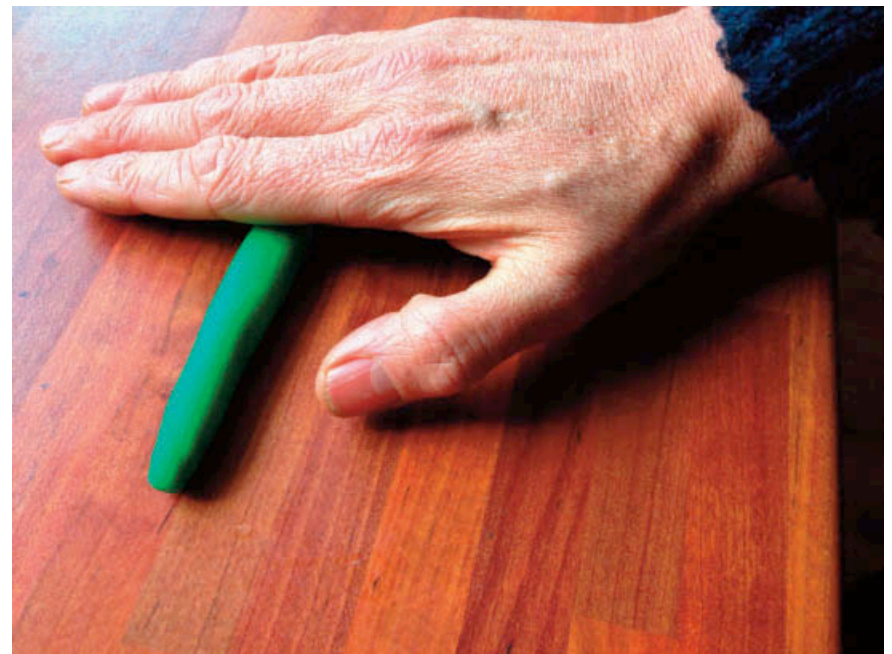
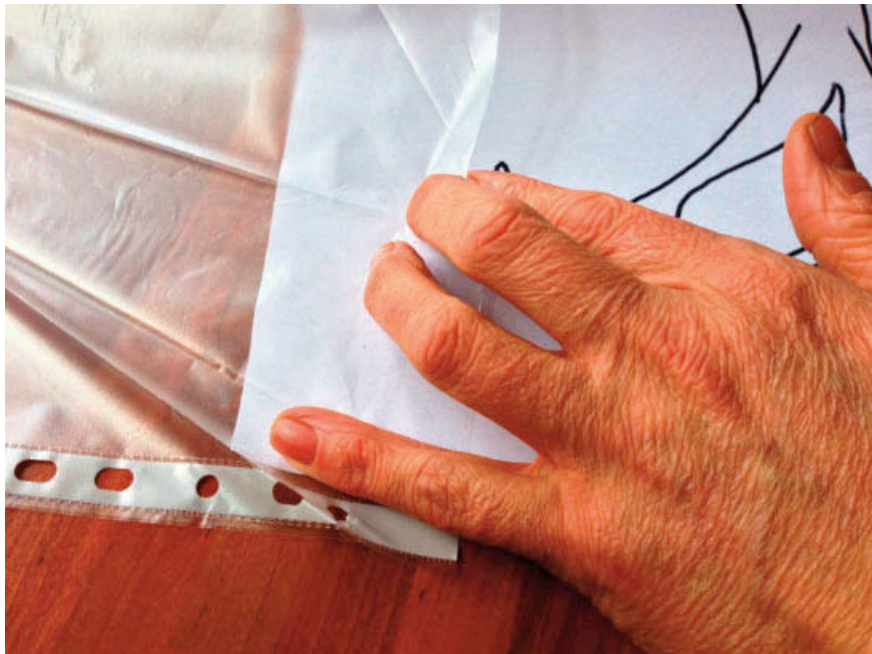
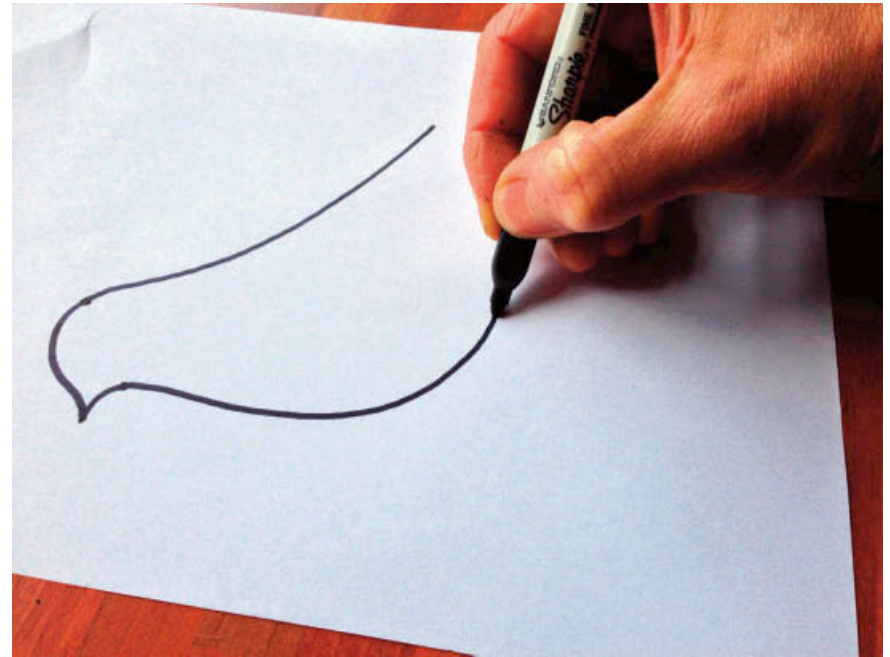
Cross-Curricular: This project can easily be extended across the whole curriculum. In Maths, you could plan a holiday or trip to New Guinea, calculating the cost of the trip or estimate the distance from their home to the forest. Investigate the habitat or climate of New Guinea, the demise of species such as these in Geography, the science behind the evolution of the birds, the history of Indonesian exploration or the religious beliefs of the people of New Guinea. This is a vast topic.

Lesson Plan

1. Introduce the students to the website www.birdsofparadise.org. This is best done where the students have at least one computer between two, for discussion and sharing information. I often pair less able students with more able for effective learning.
2. Give out the question cards that use Bloom's taxonomy based tasks to challenge the student's thinking. The questions increase in difficulty as you go down the list, so choose which are appropriate for your students. At one level, they might be just drawing and labelling the birds, at another level they might be analysing deeper understandings.
3. Ask the student's to create interesting sketchbook pages from their findings. these might look like bold drawings, brightly coloured or lots of small, detailed sketches with notes and pictures. It is for the student to decide how best to set out their work, though they should be advised NOT to leave lots of white spaces or cross things out.
4. I have included some Black & White illustrations of Birds of Paradise. Print these out and ask the students to make copies of them on a large scale. I use brown wrapping paper, but you can use anything. Then ask the students to invent colours that they think might make the birds look amazing to look at. I use oil pastels and watercolour onto the broan paper.
4. ALL students will then complete the CREATIVE task; design an original bird of paradise. Try not to copy directly, but rather be influenced by what you have learned.
5. The students are then to be shown the making process in stages, beginning with the drawing out of a simplified version of their bird design. It is best to keep this as a very simple body shape as most things can be added later. You might want to help some students draw the body shape, though I have added some templates in the presentation.
6. Make the birds and leave to dry for a few days, then use craft packs to finish details. I buy the bumper craft packs that contain beads, feathers, sequins, glitter etc. The students might paint their birds with acrylic paint also.

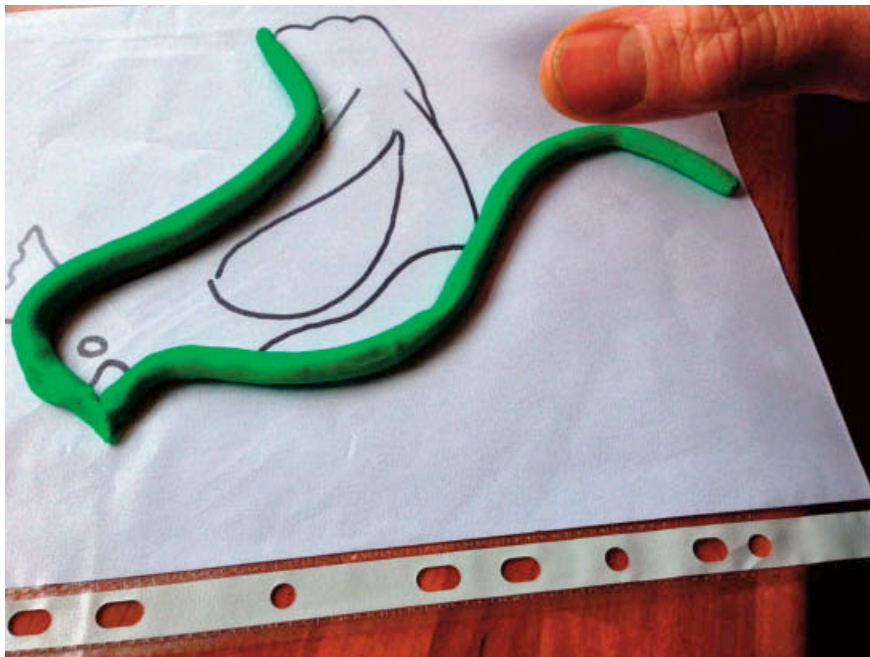
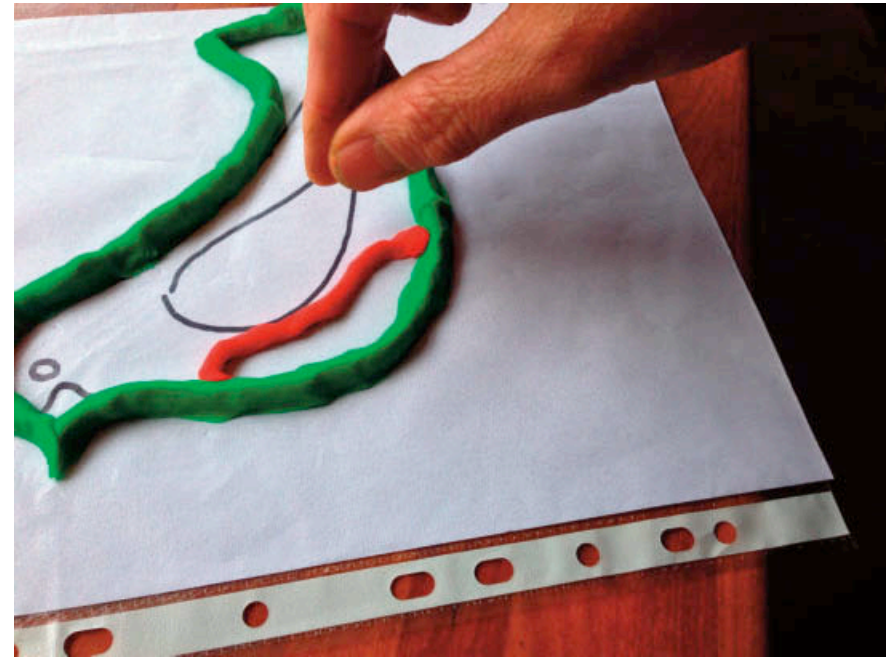
Instructions

1. Draw or trace the bird shape onto A4 paper and go over the lines with black marker pen.
2. Put the drawing into a plastic document wallet.
3. Roll out some long, thin strips of plasticine or play dough. Alternatively, make your own play-dough by mixing cornflour, hair conditioner and food colouring. Try it!



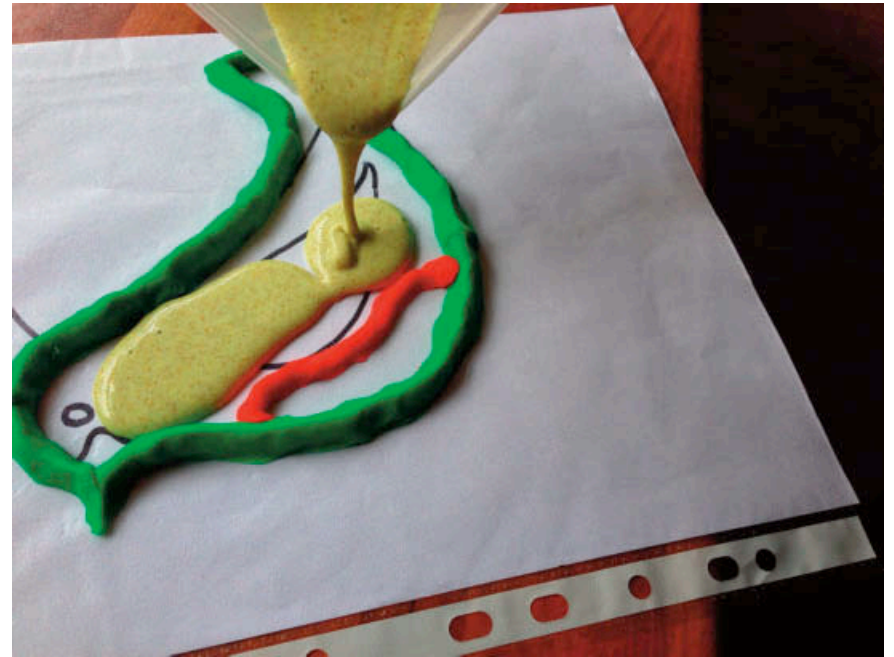
Instructions

4. Place the modelling clay around the bird shape to follow the contour neatly.
5. Pinch and press the clay so it sticks to the plastic wallet and forms a straight edge.
6. Mix some PVA glue in a tub with food colouring or ink. You can add glitter here too if you wish.



Instructions

7. Pour the mixture into the bird mould and leave to dry. You can see from the photo that I've used a different colour clay for the birds breast. I mixed and poured a different colour for this. If you have beads you can put them into the mould and pour the PVA over them, or even sprinkle glitter.
8. Leave to dry for a few days. Yes, DAYS!! When it is dry, glue feathers, eyes and decorative features. You can paint details with acrylic paint. Make a hole and add wire to hang.



KNOW:

Find the names of your favourite birds and write them in your sketchbooks. Draw pictures of the birds and colour them.

UNDERSTAND

Explain why the male birds are more brightly coloured than the female birds.

APPLY

Examine the different ways in which birds display and use colour and show this in sketches and notes.

ANALYSE

Explain the role feathers and their shape play in the birds courtship. Compare and contrast the different types of feathers the birds grow.

ANALYSE

What does the word IRIDESCENT mean and how do some birds use iridescent feathers in courtship dances? Show your answer with words and sketches.

ANALYSE

Compare different birds to investigate how the birds use black feathers to make them stand out. Identify and explain the differences between birds that use colours for close-up effect and those that use colour for far away effect.

EVALUATE

Decide which features of the birds of paradise you like best. Which are your favourite feather shapes? Which birds use colour most effectively?

CREATE

Invent a design for your own, original bird of paradise. This one might look like nothing seen on earth before! Give it a name and try to figure out how you might make it. You will be making a simple bird shape from a 2D mould then pouring liquid glue that will harden. From there you can make feather shapes and add colour as you wish, so how might you use this method to create your bird?