



City Skylines

Designed by Marji Gates for Polyform Products



Project Description

City skylines provide the motivation for students to explore an architectural landscape. The colors, textures and overlap make these miniature city scenes easy and fun to make for inventive children.

Goals - Students will:

- Explore the architecture of cities.
- Create a landscape in 3-dimensional relief.
- Condition and roll polymer clay slabs in a chosen harmony of colors.
- Make a variety of architectural building sizes and shapes.
- Add a variety of textures to imitate architectural details.
- Layer buildings to create a sense of spatial depth.
- Create a small vehicle to add a sense of scale, and to complete the scene.

Materials:

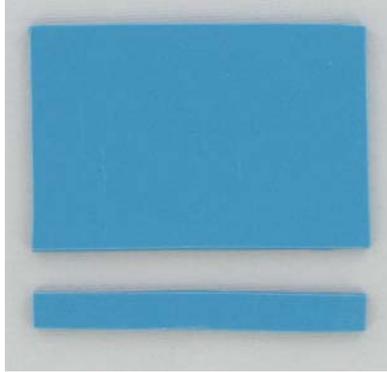
- Sculpey III clays in a variety of colors – pastels, earth tones, neutrals and metallics, or brights, with white and black, 1/8 block cubes. Variety of blues for sky and base, 1/2 oz. per student.
- Scraps of matt board, ceramic tiles, or aluminum roof flashing for work surfaces, one per student.
- Pasta machines (Clay Conditioning Machine) (1 per 4-6 students) with table clamps, or Firefly hand rollers (part of, one per student).
- Firefly Tool Set
- Scissors and a plastic ruler.
- Optional – Tin cans and paper to wrap around cylinders.

Getting Started

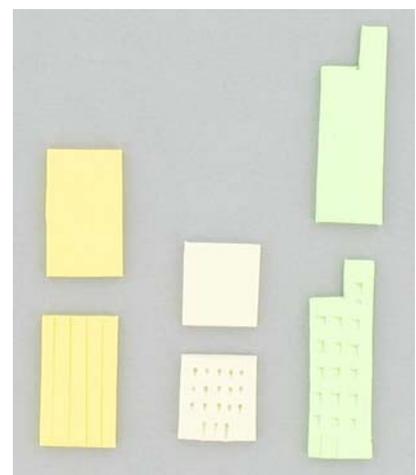
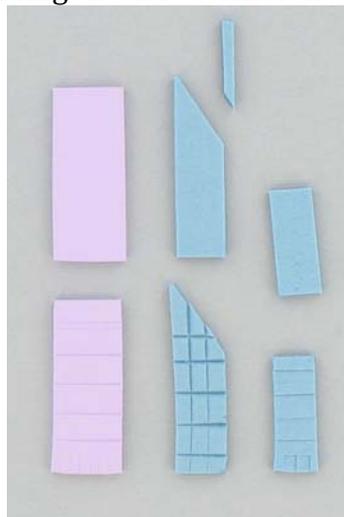
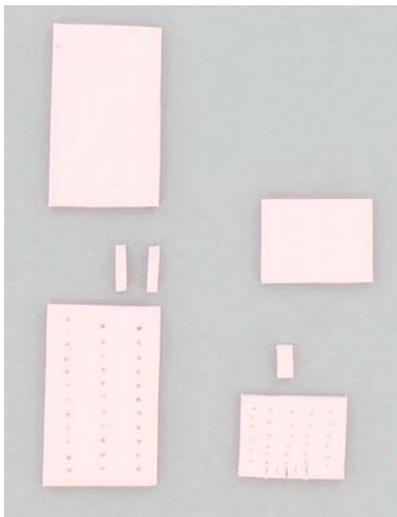
Preheat oven to 275 °F. Test temperature with oven thermometer for perfectly cured clay. Condition all clay by kneading until it's soft and smooth or running it through the Clay Conditioning Machine (Pasta Machine) for several passes on the widest setting. Fold the clay in half after each pass and insert the fold side into the rollers first.

Process:

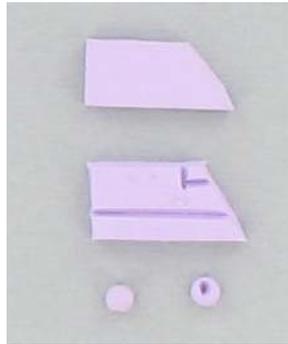
1. Photographs of city skylines will provide inspiration and ideas for students. Point out the variety of buildings – sizes, colors, roof and window designs.
2. Students choose a limited color harmony, such as realistic earth tones, pastels, or brights. They also choose a pleasing blue for the background sky. Students condition all the chosen clays through a pasta machine or by hand.
3. Cut a 2x3" base, & a 3/8x 3" strip for the lower edge of the panel.



4. Teach children to save scraps by color to conserve clay.
5. Buildings are cut with scissors or Firefly knife tool with a ruler as a straight-edge guide. Caution students that each building should be different in color, size and shape.



6. Students experiment with textures on clay scraps to make tiny windows or window walls on each building. Again, remind students to use a new and different texture on each building to resemble the true variety of a modern city.
7. Layer taller buildings onto the base, lining up with the bottom edge of the base. Add smaller buildings in front.
8. Cut a truck or van from a scrap of clay, rolling small balls for the wheels.



9. Attach the 3" strip as a bottom ledge that seals and completes the scene.
10. Cure at 275° F. for 20 minutes.
11. These scenes look great on small easels, but they can also be displayed on bulletin boards by mounting them with glue to larger construction paper or matt board frames.
12. Gift ideas: Panels can be cured on tin cans to become the base for a paper-covered pencil container. (Tip cans on their sides to receive the panels, make oven props to wedge under the curved cans from scrap clay, and cure panels on the sides of the cans.)



13. Flat panels also make handsome decorative covers for note pads.