



Calder-Inspired Wire sculptures

Developed with: Britt Feingold (Palm Beach Schools, Florida)

Florida Art Education Association (FAEA)

VOL. 79

Grades: K-5

Time required: 1 class period

Lesson:

- ⑥ Introduce students to Alexander Calder by reading a story, "Sandy's Circus" by Tanya Lee Stone.
- ⑥ Show the students examples of Calder's works: sculptures, mobiles, and paintings.

Activity:

- ⑥ Students create their wire sculpture in 30 minutes.
- ⑥ When finished, ask students what their objects are and discuss the end results of what was learned.

Objectives/Standards:

Students will:

- ⑥ **VA.E.1.1** — Make connections between the visual arts, other disciplines, and the real world.
- ⑥ **VA.A.1.1.1** — Use two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, techniques, tools, and processes to depict works of art from personal experiences, observation, or imagination.
- ⑥ **VA.A.1.1.2** — Use art materials and tools to develop basic processes and motor skills, in a safe and responsible manner.

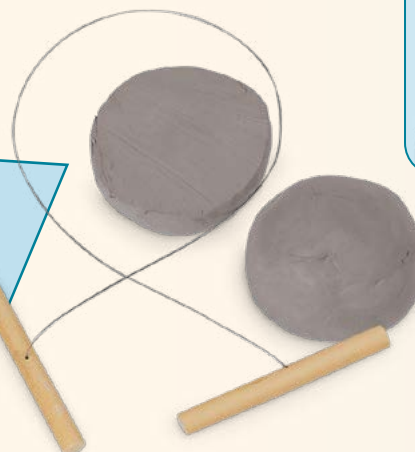


Step 1:

Roll out small balls of clay and use clay wire cutter to cut the balls in half. This serves as the base for the sculpture.

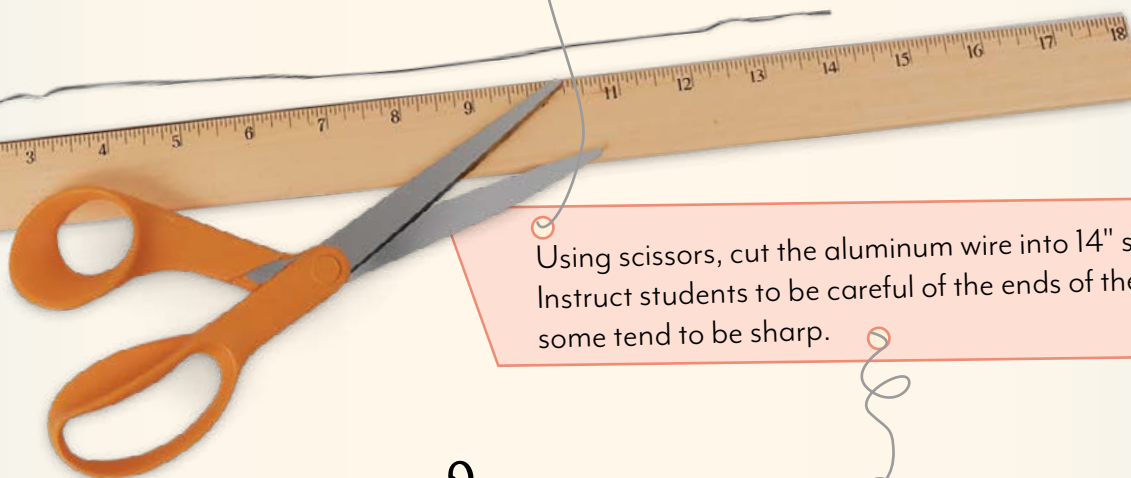


Approx. 2" ball.



Step 2:

Using scissors, cut the aluminum wire into 14" strips. Instruct students to be careful of the ends of the wire, some tend to be sharp.



Step 3:

Make sure each table has a bowl or basket of the foam shapes.

Step 4:

Using the beads, ask students to "string" the shapes onto the wire. While putting the shapes on, ask students to use anything to bend the wire — a finger, a pencil, or some other item. Some students create sculptures that resemble shapes or objects.





Step 5:

When students are done creating their masterpiece, ask them to stick the two ends of the wire into the clay, being careful not to stick the ends through the bottom.



Step 6:

After students have finished the sculpture, use a pencil to write the students' initials on the base bottom.

Note:

It usually takes 1-2 days for the clay base to dry.



Step 7:

When finished, document the artwork on www.artsonia.com, as well as create an area for the sculptures to be displayed. At the end of the year, students are able to take their Calder-inspired wire sculptures home!



Materials:

- © AMACO® Marblex™ Self-Hardening Clay, 5-lb. box — 0300252
- © Richeson Toggle Clay Cutters — 4300201
- © 14-gauge Aluminum Armature Wire, 350-ft. spool — 9716369
- © Pacon® WonderFoam® Beads, pkg. of 400 — EL11957

Resources:

- © www.artsonia.com
- © calder.org
- © www.nga.gov/exhibitions/caldwel.shtm
- © www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/alexander-calder/about-the-artist/78/

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