

# Clay and Plaster

**Objectives:** Create abstract art by using hands as a plaster mold, as well as create cool clay beads.

## **Materials:**

### Plaster Project:

- Plaster (“PlayBox Plaster” from A.C.Moore – it hardens in less than 1 hr, and sets in 1 hr.)
- Bucket, Water, Spoon (for mixing plaster)
- Newspaper (to cover tables)
- Vaseline (not necessary, but helps)

### Clay Project:

- Sculpting clay – assorted colors (available at any craft store)
- Clay/Pasta Machine
- Clay Scrapers
- Tissue Blade
- Needle/rod to make holes
- String

## **5 minutes; The Origin of Clay and Plaster**

(Website-[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clay and plaster](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clay_and_plaster))

## **55 Minutes; Plaster**

1. Have students plan a comfortable position for hands that will hold plaster for a long period of time.
2. Have students wash hands (and apply Vaseline if desired. This will help the plaster come off hands easier)
3. Prepare the plaster to have a toothpaste or thicker consistency. Make sure there are no lumps. Read the directions as described on the PlayBox Plaster.
4. Students will place hands in chosen position and hold it there while instructor pours in plaster.
5. Play word games or eye-spy, etc. while plaster sets. (This should take about a half hour, and children love when the plaster heats up in their hands!) Game ideas are available online at: [www.funattic.com](http://www.funattic.com)

6. When plaster is moderately hard (after it's heated up a bit), gently pry hands loose, and set masterpiece aside to cool and finish setting. Students may paint their abstract art after an hour or so – water color paints work best!

### **30 Minutes; Clay**

1. See worksheet below for “How to make clay canes.”
2. Cut nice, thick slices – these are your beads. Make holes in them and bake according to package directions. Let cool, and string them on!

#### Making Clay Canes:

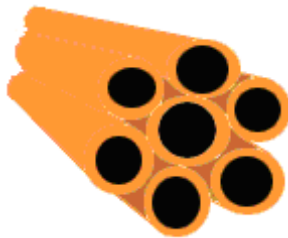
1. How to form a basic Target Cane:

- Roll a snake of one color
- Using the clay machine, roll a flat sheet of the second color
- Cover the snake with the second color and roll gently. Cut pieces to the appropriate size.



2. How to make a Lace Cane

- Roll 6 or 7 Target Canes into a snake. If more “lace” is desired, cut the snake into more pieces, arrange them as before, and roll into a snake. Cut pieces to appropriate size.



3. How to make a Coil Cane

- Choose 2 or 3 colors and roll into sheets.
- Layer these sheets (Cut so they are even), and roll gently into a thick snake. (Snake may be reduced as desired to get a smaller coil)

