



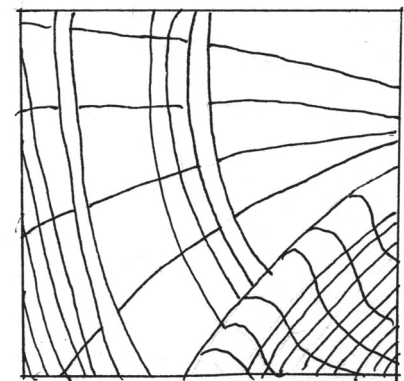
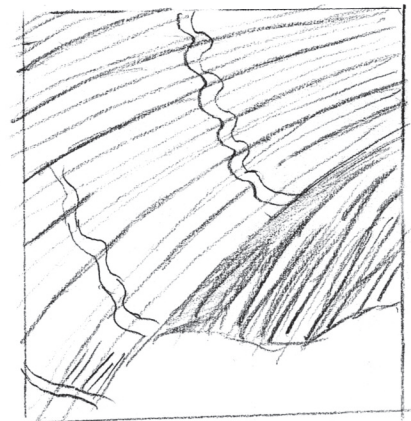
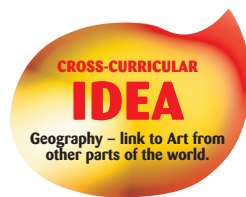
www.apfs.org.uk/resources

Decorative Clay Tiles

Work from observation of natural forms to make decorative clay tiles with linear designs.

Materials

Natural forms e.g. shells, driftwood, plants etc.
Viewfinder
Sketchbook
Ordinary school clay/air-drying clay
Rolling pin
Wooden clay guides
Clay tools (optional)
Shoe polish (brown), toothbrush & soft cloth.



Method

- Ask the children to use a viewfinder and move it around the chosen object until they find an interesting area. Draw this in sketchbooks using line only.
- Encourage the children to re-draw this as a simple design, modifying it a little if necessary.
- Model rolling out some clay to approx 1cm thick using clay guides if desired then ask the children to roll their clay to produce a square or rectangular tile.
- Referring to their linear design the children now need to translate the drawing into a decorative tile by impressing into the clay or adding clay on top. Remind them to attach extra clay with a little water.
- Encourage the children to keep referring back to their linear design. Leave the tile to dry completely.
- Show the children how to use a toothbrush to rub brown shoe polish all over the top of the clay tile or show them the video on our website. Make sure polish gets into every nook and cranny. The polish can be applied in layers to give a darker colour. Rub any excess off with a paper towel and leave for about 24 hours. Buff the tile with a soft cloth to bring up a gentle sheen.
- There is a video showing how to apply shoe polish as a finish for clay on our website. Look at www.apfs.org.uk/resources

Taking it Further

Try using clay in other colours to impress patterns into the clay tile. Make a string print block from the original linear design and print onto paper.

This activity covers several skills including observational drawing, simplifying to make a design and translating a design from 2D into 3D.