

# MODELLING CLAY LANDSCAPES

## STEP 1: COLLECT AND ORGANIZE ALL OF YOUR MATERIALS

Gather the following materials:



- Canvas or illustration board
- Masking or painter's tape
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Water container
- Modelling clay (white, black, blue, purple)

*\* Feel free to be creative and use anything you find around the house. Be sure to ask your parent or guardian for permission first!*

## STEP 2: DRAW THE TREES AND PAINT THE BACKGROUND



With a pencil, sketch out the outlines of three birch trees. Sketch the trunks so that they extend past the edge of your board. When you're finished sketching, cover the trees with masking tape. Use acrylic paint to cover the entire sky with different shades of blues, purples and pinks. Set your board aside to let it dry completely before proceeding to the next step.

**TIP:** Making trees of different widths will give the illusion of distance and lend variety to your artwork!



### STEP 3: PAINT THIN TREE SILHOUETTES

Use black acrylic paint to add thin tree silhouettes between your taped birch trees. Then, fill in the leaf and tree trunk shapes you've made with the black paint. Let the paint dry before proceeding to the next step.

TIP: Wet your brush often to create smooth lines as you paint.



### STEP 4: PAINT IN THE LEAF COLOURS

After the black silhouettes have dried, use orange, yellow and red paints to add leaves on top of them. Add white paint to make the colours lighter. To add darker shades, mix in a complimentary paint colour and use it to make the leaves stand out!

TIP: Examples of complimentary colours are as follows: red and green, yellow and purple, orange and blue.



STEP 5: ADD SHADOWS AND DETAIL TO YOUR BIRCH TREES



Peel off the tape and use a pencil to mark where your shadows will go.

Then, use the pencil to make black horizontal lines all over the trunk to replicate those on a birch tree.

STEP 6: COVER YOUR BIRCH TREE WITH MODELLING CLAY

Take white clay and spread it on the white areas of your birch tree using your finger. Mix white, purple and blue clay together and spread the clay on to the shapes you have marked as shadows. Finally, roll little bits of black clay with your fingers and attach them to your trees over top of the black horizontal lines you drew, to give your trees a finishing touch.

**TIP:** Use a non-stick surface like wax paper or a silicone mat as your mixing surface. This will save you from having to clean up afterwards!

**CHALLENGE YOURSELF:**

Experiment by using various tools to create marks on your clay. This will help add texture to your trees!



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