

## Black History Month Celebration 2021

A collaboration between Cedarhurst Center for the Arts and District 80 Schools

# MODEL MAGIC Lesson Plan: Ocean Sculpture or Pendant

Written for grades 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at J. L. Buford School

### Supplies Needed:

- 1 pack of white Model Magic
- 1 popsicle stick
- 1 or 2 seashells
- Markers (cool colors, Blue, Purple and Green)
- Ziplock bag for storing extra model magic
- Paper plate

### Step by Step Instruction:

1. **OPEN** your pack of model magic and enjoy squeezing and stretching the clay in your hands.
2. **TWIST** the clay in half and set one chunk aside.
3. **PRACTICE** – We will begin by exploring a few different techniques. Then, you may create whatever you like for your finished Ocean Sculpture or Pendant.
4. **TRY** rolling small balls by pinching off a small piece of clay. Roll it in the palm of your hands or on the table surface. Now, try rolling small coils (little snakes or worm shapes.) Then, stick them together, it's magic! When you are done you can smush it all back up into one big ball.
5. **CREATE** new **Colors!** Pinch off a small ball of clay, about the size of a penny. Grab a cool colored marker (blue, purple or green) and draw/color a few marks on the clay. Fold the clay over and draw/color again. Repeat this until you have 'dyed' the clay your desired new color. Repeat with different colored markers.
6. **Texture time!**
  - a. **Fish Scales:** Take a small piece of model magic and press it into a small flat pancake ('slab' in ceramic terms.) Press the tip of the popsicle into the clay creating a 'U' shaped texture. Repeat by placing more U's right next to each other. UUUUUU. Then, start a new row underneath, just slightly offset from the row above it to give the allusion of real scales.
  - b. **Sea Shell:** Take the bumpy side of the sea shell and press it into the clay to create a pattern of repeating lines
7. **Create** your Masterpiece! You are the artist! Use a variety of the methods you practiced to create an ocean sculpture or pendant
  - a. Take the other half of your white model magic you set aside and decide if you want to change its color first.

- b. Roll a medium size ball, shape and flatten it into a pancake or slab.
- c. Decorate an ocean like scene by rolling small green coils to become seaweed. Pinch out the shape of a small blue fish or mermaid tail. Roll long blue coils that could become wavy ocean waves.
- d. Use textures to add pattern.
- e. Poke a hole in the top of your piece if you want it to hang as a pendant after it dries.

**\*Pro TIP:** Do NOT smush the model magic down hard onto the table or paper plate. It can get stuck and will warp when you try to peel it back up. Press firmly but double check that it will pop free before doing your final decorations and design work.

Let **DRY** 24 hours. The model magic will harden overnight and then be ready to hang or display.



Carrie Gibbs  
Director Shrode Art Center  
[carrie@cedarhurst.org](mailto:carrie@cedarhurst.org)

Janna Edwards  
J.L. Buford  
[jedwards@mtv80.org](mailto:jedwards@mtv80.org)

Karla Rutherford  
J. L. Buford  
[krutherford@mtv.80.org](mailto:krutherford@mtv.80.org)

