

Gnomes

Objectives: #1 Students will learn how to construct a figure using the pinch pot method. #2 Students will add features to their figures through the additive method.

Vocabulary: pinch pot, coil, slab, slip, score, underglaze, texture, fire

Materials: White clay, color underglazes, white clay slip

Tools: Scoring tool, sponge, variety of texturing tools

Historic/Cultural Background:

Gnomes were created from the land of fairy tales and myths. They are known to bring knowledge, the wisdom of cheerful happiness, richness of Nature and modesty. Its characteristics have been reinterpreted to suit the needs of various story-tellers, but it is typically said to be a small, humanoid creature that lives underground.

Gnomes were used in Romanticism and modern fairy tales. They are figures of 19th century fairy tales, the term gnome by the 20th century became largely the same with other terms for the "little people", such as and leprechauns and other instances of the type, losing its strict connection with earth or the underground world.

Gnome production in Germany dropped back sharply in World War II and today almost all manufacturers of garden gnome statues are located in China and Poland. Gnomes are considered to be a part of the collective memory of Eastern and Western European folk tale.

Phillip Griebel began manufacturing terra cotta gnomes specifically for gardens in the town of Graefenroda, Germany in the early nineteenth century. They quickly became staples of gardens across the continent Phillip Griebel's descendants continue to create garden gnomes in Germany and are the last producers of German garden gnomes.

Gnome legends were especially popular in Germany and Griebel made his gnome statues so that people could better enjoy the myths and stories of gnomes who tended to gardens at night. These first garden gnomes were molded from terracotta clay then dried, fired in a kiln, and finally painted. Garden Gnomes soon became very popular and several companies rose up to produce them.

With their reputation expanding out from Germany, garden gnomes soon became popular across Europe and particularly in England and France, where gardening is looked upon as a very serious undertaking. Today of course Garden Gnomes have become a familiar sight around the world.

According to legend, gnomes or Heinzelmännchen used to help out the people of Cologne, Germany. This went on until a tailor's wife got so curious to see the gnomes that she threw peas onto the floor of the workshop to make the gnomes slip and fall. The gnomes became angry, disappeared and never returned. From that time on, the townspeople had to do all their work by themselves!

Instructions:

Day 1:

1. Create two matching pinch pots.

Day 2:

1. Join two pinch pots together by scoring and using slip. Add initials.
2. Roll out a very thin coil of clay to fill the joint and smooth out.
3. With the joint running from top to bottom, gently press thumbs halfway down to form the eye indentations.
4. Create a nose and add using score and slip method.
5. Make two small balls for eyeballs and adhere to indentations.
6. Make and add two eyelids to partially cover eyeballs. Smooth in place.
7. Make eyebrows and attach or incise into clay using toothpicks.
8. Make a thin line to indicate mouth.
9. Roll two very thin coils to form the upper and lower lips. Add to gnome's head. (The space between the lips can be open slightly if desired). Cover.

Day 3:

1. The hair can be scored or a garlic press can be used to create hair.
2. Make a half circle and roll, connecting straight edge to straight edge, to form the gnome's hat.
3. Score and add to the top of the head. Attach with slip.
4. Make two ears (one left, one right) and place on head. They can overlap the hat.

Day 4:

1. Cut a rectangle approximately 1 inch by 4 inches.
2. Attach short sides together and attach to the head to form the neck. Cut and remove a small amount of clay from the head to assist in drying.

Day 5:

1. Underglaze the gnome following manufactures directions.
2. Make sure artist initials are visible on the back.



Gnomes

FOREST GNOME

seems to be frowning but this is caused by posing in harsh daylight

275 years of age

in the prime of life

true height - (without cap)

15 cm.



tool bag attached to belt

deer fur boots

feet are slightly turned inward for fast running over grass, dry leaves, etc.



