

Molding human shapes

Materials

- Air-drying clay
- Hard work surface
- Bamboo skewer, toothpick or pencil
- Toilet paper rolls
- Scissors



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Look at this figurine.

What do you see? A human? Is it a man or a woman? What kind of gesture are they making? Are they waving? Are they holding something? What are they holding? Where is their other hand? Are they standing or sitting? Where are they seated? What is this figurine made of? It is made of marble and is one of the few figurines found doing something and not just standing.

2. The human forms we will make today will not be made of marble, but of clay. Clay is a malleable material made of soil and water that can be molded like play-doh.

3. Let's make our first human form in a very simple way.

We take a piece of clay the size of a tennis ball in our hands. We mold it to soften it. First cut a piece that fits in the palm of your hand and shape it into a 2-3 cm ball. We can do this by placing the clay between our palms and circling it around while pressing slightly. Set the ball aside.

4. Take another piece of clay, equal in size to the previous one, and shape it into a long loaf of bread-like form. This time our hand presses by rocking back and forth 2-3 times. We do not do it too many times so it does not get too thin. Once it is 5-6 cm in height, then, set it aside.

5. Take another slightly larger piece of clay and mold it back and forth to create a longer and thinner spaghetti-like shape, measuring approximately 8 cm in length. You do not want it to be too thin so it does not break when it dries. Once it is ready, cut it in half.

6. Repeat the same process until you have four spaghetti shapes, one loaf and one ball.

7. Now comes the sticking stage.

Clay needs water to stick. First we take the loaf and the ball. Use your finger to wet one side of the ball and one side of the loaf and stick them together. Then, with the help of an adult, press the joint with your finger to make sure that they stick together very well and if necessary, add water using your finger. The head and body are now ready.

8. The hands come next.

Take the first spaghetti shape and use a little water to stick it to the body on the left. Do the same with the second spaghetti shape on the right side of the body. Again with the help of an adult, we press our finger on the joint and add a little water if needed.

9. Last but not least, the legs.

Take the third spaghetti shape and a little water, and stick it under the body to form one leg. Then, take the last spaghetti shape and stick it to the body next to the other one. With the help of an adult, press the attachment points with your finger and add a little more water if needed. Our human figure is ready.

10. Now it's time for the clothes and other details.

Let's decide whether our figurine will be a man or a woman, whether we are going to create their clothes and facial features.

11. For the facial features, we can take the stick and engrave the eyes, nose, mouth and hair.

We can do the same for the clothes. We engrave the shirt, skirt or pants. We can also make little clay pies and add them on top as clothing. By folding them, a dress or a skirt is formed.

12. Our human figure is ready.

• To follow the steps, see the example provided in the video <https://vimeo.com/826833942>

Now that you know how to do this, you can create other figures, male or female, and build your own collection of figurines in action!