



GARGOYLES

MONSTERS IN STONE

Created by Marianne Coble



Students will be introduced to the significance and symbolism of gargoyles in Gothic architecture. Using air dry clay, they will then create their own unique open mouth gargoyle with realistic and/or imaginary animal expressions.

GARGOYLE

- Originates from an old French word “gargouille” - throat.
- Refers to the gargling noise of a waterspout.
- Blend of form and function (keep rain water from eroding face of buildings).
- Gothic architecture.



GARGOYLES

- Sculpted with Hammer and chisel.
- Not meant to be realistic.
- Believed to be to protect from evil or harmful spirits.
- Gothic gargoyles are over 8 centuries old.



NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL



NOTRE DAME GARGOYLES

- The world's most famous gargoyles and grotesques (over 500).
- World Heritage site.
- Notre Dame Cathedral (Paris, France) constructed in the 13th century, but gargoyles were only added in the mid 1800s.



CURRENT EVENTS

- On 15 April 2019, just before 18:20 (Paris time), a fire broke out beneath the roof of Notre-Dame Cathedral.
- By the time it was extinguished the building's spire and most of its roof had been destroyed.
- Damage to the interior was prevented by its stone vaulted ceiling, which largely contained the burning roof as it collapsed.
- Many works of art and religious relics were moved to safety early in the emergency, but many others were damaged or destroyed.
- The cathedral's two pipe organs, and its three 13th-century rose windows, suffered little to no damage.



OTHER GARGOYLES



Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Chapel in Flagstaff, Arizona



Wawel Cathedral, Poland



Rosslyn Chapel, Roslin, Scotland



Paisley Abbey, Scotland



Peace Tower, Ottawa, Canada

GROTESQUES AND GRIFFINS

- Grotesques:
 - Only for ornamental purposes (no spouts).
 - Can be any combination of animal and human.
 - Can also be called Boss (when placed on the ceiling) or Chimera.
- Griffins:
 - Sculptures that have the body of a lion and the head and wings of an eagle.
 - Some griffins are *gargoyles*, *but not all*. A griffin may serve as a drainage gutter or its role can be purely symbolic.



All gargoyles are
grotesques, but not all
grotesques are gargoyles.



CURIOSITIES

- Pittsburg, PA is a hotbed for gargoyles! They have over 20 authentic gargoyles, and hundreds of grotesques.
- There is a Darth Vader gargoyle in Washington, D.C.
- There is an Alien gargoyle at Paisley Abbey in Scotland



GARGOYLES IN POP CULTURE

- Running from 1994 to 1996, “Gargoyles” was Disney’s most popular cartoon series, inspiring an intense fan following.
- The Disney movie “The Hunchback of Notre Dame” features 3 gargoyles. Two of them are named Victor and Hugo after **Victor Hugo**, the author of the novel the movie is based on.



PROJECT



Using a variety of clay techniques, students will hand build a creature inspired by **Gothic** gargoyles.



ART WORDS

- Sculpture - three-dimensional work of art either in the round (viewed from all sides) or in bas relief (low relief).
- Additive - process of joining several parts together to create a sculpture.
- Subtractive - sculpting method produced by removing or taking away from the original material (the opposite of additive).
- Texture - the surface quality of materials, either actual (tactile) or implied (visual). It is one of the elements of art.



KID SAMPLES



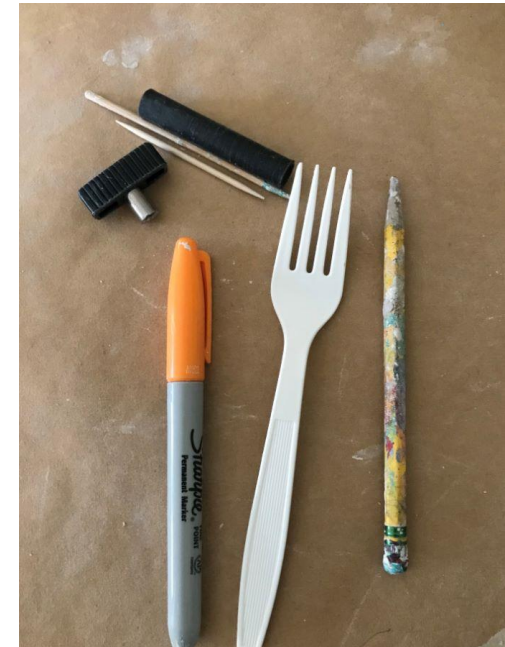
SUPPLIES

Per student:

- Pre cut clay
- Plate to work on and to take project home on
- Paper towel, old paint brush, old pencil, clay tools
- Resource sheet of gargoyle images

Share per 2-4 students:

- Small water cups - for clay brushes
- Baby wipes (for fingers/hands)
- Additional assorted clay tools for cutting and texture (plastic knives & forks, paper clip, toothpick, old marker)



DOCENT PREP & NOTES

- 1-2 days before:
 - Shape block of clay to 4"x6".
 - Use clay cutter to cut 1 inch slabs of clay.
 - Cut each slab in half and place it in Ziplock bags.
- After project is finished:
 - Wash paintbrushes.
 - DO NOT WASH CLAY TOOLS!!! (just scrape them off if needed).
 - Dry time is 3-10 days.
 - Can use mod podge (when dry) to last longer.



STEP 1

- Cut clay into 3 equals blocks.



BASIC SCULPTING TECHNIQUES

- Pinch off a little bit of clay from one of the blocks and practice shapes.
 - Balls: Roll in circular motion between your palms.
 - Logs/Ropes/Coils: roll between your palms or on a work surface.
 - Disc: Roll a ball and then flatten it.
- After practicing return the piece of clay to it's original block.



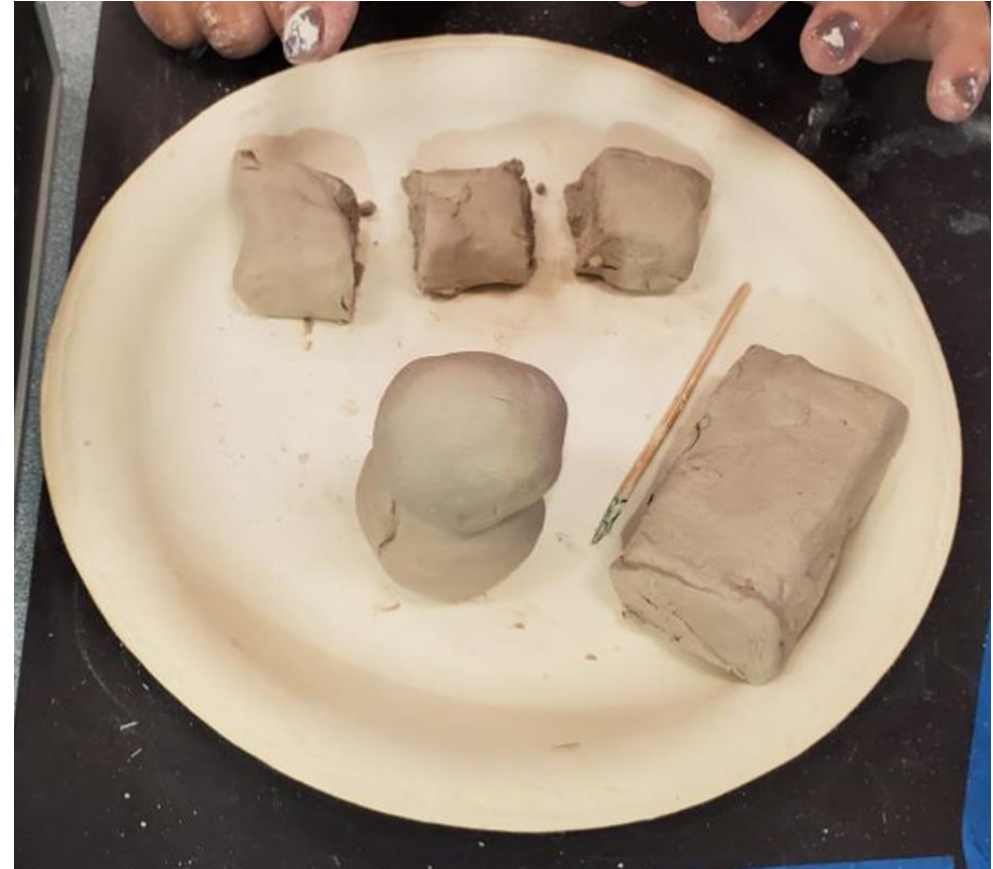
STEP 2

- Use one of the 3 blocks of clay.
- Cut it in half and roll each piece into a ball (can be the same size or one slightly bigger).
- Join them by lightly scoring both pieces and then attaching.
- Set aside.



STEP 3

- Use the second block of clay.
- Divide it into 3 pieces.



STEP 4 – MAKING LEGS

- Divide one of the pieces from the last step in half.
- Roll each half into a log.
- Attach logs to the body (no need to score it).
- Bend the legs and position them as desired.



STEP 4 - MAKING LEGS

- Smoosh legs on the back of your gargoyle to smooth it out and blend it.



STEP 5

- Use another of the small pieces from step 3.
- Make a small ball, and attach it to the center of the face (nose).
- Poke 2 holes above it for eyes sockets.



STEP 6

- Make 2 smaller balls and attach them to the sides of the face (cheeks).
- Smooth them in (can use fingers or clay tools).
- Poke nose holes, and a mouth opening.
- Make 2 tiny ball for eyeballs and attach them to the eye holes.
- Add pupils to the eyes.



STEP 7 – UPPER GRADES ONLY

- Upper grade students can build more of their features:
 - Change shape of head by making it narrower.
 - Add jaw line with extra clay.
 - Pinch out ears and ridge at back of head.
 - Add eyelids, eyebrows, chin, lips, tongue, etc.



STEP 8

- Using the last small piece of clay, roll 2 logs (arms).
- Attach them to the body, and position them as desired.
- Smooth them on the back to blend.



STEP 9

- The last block of clay will be used as a base for your gargoyle.
- Score the base and bottom of gargoyle, and attach them.
- Smooth both pieces together to make it look like it is one solid piece.



STEP 10 – EXTRA DETAILS

- Younger grades can make marks on clay to add hand and feet
 - Can pinch to add ears.



STEP 10 – EXTRA DETAILS

- Older grades can use any left over clay to add any additional pieces to sculpt. I.e.: ears, horns, wings, tail
 - Wings: make disc, flatten it and cut out heart shape. Attach to back.



STEP 11

- Smooth all pieces together using paintbrush and water.
- Finish up sculpt by adding texture to clay.
- Sign or initial bottom of base.



OPTIONAL

- After sculpt is completely dry - seal with a Mod Podge



THE END

