



# LESSON PLAN #36



amaco.com (800) 374-1600 Teacher Support 8am-5pm EST M-F



## MAKE A MARIONETTE IN CLAYCRETE® INSTANT PAPIER MÂCHÉ

BY MICHELLE ZIMMERMAN

**Objective:** Research the history of puppetry and marionettes in particular

Create a working marionette puppet

This project is suitable for grades 6-8.

National Visual Art Standards Addressed:

1. Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and culture.
2. Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes.
3. Using knowledge of structures and functions.
4. Choosing a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas.
5. Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics of artwork.
6. Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines.

## Materials & Tools

- AMACO® ClayCrete®- instant papier mâché
- Styrofoam™ egg for the body – large
- Styrofoam™ egg or ball (slightly smaller) for the head
- Styrofoam™ balls for the feet
- Assorted Paints (tempera and acrylic) - dark and light pink for flamingo, buttercream, red and yellow for vulture, black for all birds
- Pink feather boa (flamingo wings)
- Feather trim for neck (pink for flamingo, black for vulture)
- String – 2-3 yards for each marionette
- Black cord (thick) for legs – two feet for flamingo, one foot for vulture
- Chopsticks – 2 (or 2' wooden dowel) for each marionette
- Bottle caps – metal (2) for each bird
- One set of animal eyes (15mm for the flamingo, 18mm for the vulture)
- Plastic fork, knife and spoon (for cutting Styrofoam and mixing ClayCrete®)
- Small drinking straws/stirrers
- Plastic bucket to mix ClayCrete®
- Paintbrushes
- Glues - make sure these are recommended for use with Styrofoam™ such as UHU Styrofoam™ glue

## TECHNIQUE:

1. Use a narrow drinking straw to pierce the Styrofoam™ shapes. Leave the straw in place as this makes it easy to thread the feet, body and head later on. For each bird, cut one of the smaller Styrofoam™ balls in half and pierce the two halves from top to bottom to make the feet. For the Flamingo, pierce one large egg from side to side and for the Vulture pierce one large egg from top to bottom. Pierce the second smaller egg or ball side to side for the head.

2. Mix ClayCrete® according to instructions on the packet and cover the Styrofoam™ pieces for the body, head and feet with ClayCrete®.

Add some extra ClayCrete® to the feet to form two 'toes' at the front of each foot.

For the Vulture, add a ClayCrete® ruffle around the large end of the egg to form the base of the neck. Create a banana shaped beak in ClayCrete® on each head. Set aside to dry.

3. Paint the birds.

Flamingo: Paint the body, feet and head in light pink. Paint the beak dark pink and the toes and tip of the beak black.

Vulture: Paint the body black, the neck ruffle in Buttercream. Paint the head and top part of the beak red. Paint the feet and tip of the beak yellow and the toes black. Set aside to dry.

4. To make legs, take a 2' piece of thick black cord for the flamingo and 1' for the vulture. Push the ends through the holes in the feet from top to bottom and knot the ends.

5. For the flamingo, cut a 10" piece of feather trim and attach the head to the front of the body to make the bird's neck.

For the vulture, use only 6" of black feather trim and attach to the head and middle of the ruffle.

6. Form a cross shape with the chopsticks (or dowel) and tie together with string. Add some glue over the string to secure it.

Attach two pieces of string, one at each end of one of the chopsticks. Attach one piece of thread through the head and knot in place.

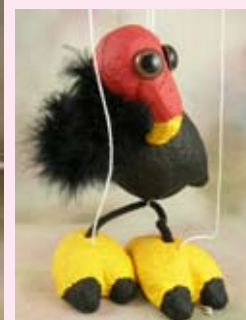
Attach the second piece of thread through the body of the marionette, loop around the middle of the cord making the legs and knot in place.

7. Attach a piece of string to the front of each foot and attach the other end of the string to either side of the remaining piece of dowel.

8. Glue bottle caps to the underside of the marionette's feet to cover the knots while allowing it to make a tapping sound as it walks.

9. Clip off the backing for each animal eye if they are not flat. Glue the eyes to either side of the head facing forward.

10. Cut two 6" lengths of feather boa and attach one to each side of the flamingo for wings.



### RESOURCES:

To learn more about puppets here are some great resources:

Puppet Universe

<http://www.puppetuniverse.com/>

Center for Puppetry Arts <http://www.puppet.org/>