

# THE LOST WORDS: CLAY SCULPTURES

English and Literacy  
 Key stage 1/2



## OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITY

To create lost word sculptures out of clay and use them to inspire story telling or scavenger hunts.

## EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

- » Clay, boards, rolling pins, simple clay tools, natural materials related to the Lost Words book if they are not available on your school site such as fern leaves, acorns, conkers, willow leaves etc.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- » To create a 'Lost Words' clay sculpture and describe to the class how it was made.
- » To use the clay models to collectively create a story or Lost Words spell.

## SET UP

Choose an outside location where there is access to natural objects that children can use to help make their clay sculpture such as twigs. To keep the task linked to the Lost Words book, ensure that there are materials related to the words in the book, or some of the other 'lost words', such as acorns, holly leaves, ferns, conker cases etc that can be used to make imprints and patterns on their models. Depending on your group, you may wish to model how to use the clay.

## PLENARY

Describe your sculpture to the rest of the class / a partner.  
 What did you enjoy about working with clay?  
 What did you find difficult and how did you overcome the challenge?

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

The clay sculptures could be hidden around the school for another class to find. Pupils could draw a simple map of their location.

The clay sculptures could be used to decorate the school's outdoor area. Pupils could make simple plaques with the name of the plant or animal to go alongside the sculpture. These could be written on rocks or painted on wood and then varnished to keep them weather-proof.

## MAIN ACTIVITY

Put a selection of natural materials in a bag, for example an acorn, conker, dandelion etc. With pupils sitting in a circle, ask them to pull out one item. Give them a minute or two to explore their item and with a partner, come up with different words to describe it. Encourage them to think not only how it looks, but how it feels and smells. Ask for pupils to describe their item to the rest of the class without showing it and see whether anybody can guess what item they have.

If pupils are not already familiar with the Lost Words book, then read a couple of the spells to them and look at the beautiful illustrations of the plants and animals.

Explain to the class that they need to create a sculpture or piece of art using clay, linked to the words in the book. For example, pupils may choose to make a 3D model of a newt, or they could decorate a piece of clay by making imprints of leaves such as fern leaves. Another idea would be to merge the two ideas, for example, making a 3D model and adding texture using natural materials, or sticking in sticks or acorns to show eyes etc. Give pupils time to explore different ideas and encourage them to try squeezing, rolling, pounding and flattening the clay.

When the clay has dried, the sculptures can be used to create a group story. They could be used as characters in the story or they could be used to describe the Lost Words book.