

# Duncan Colorworks

## Colorful Animals Ceramic Art Lesson Plan



[www.duncanceramics.com](http://www.duncanceramics.com)



## Colorful Animals - - Ceramic Art Lesson Plan

**Grade Level:** K-8

**By Phyllis Scott Johnson**

### **Introduction:**

Animals have been a part of art for as long as painters and sculptors have painted and sculpted. Pictures and sculptures of animals have been found in caves from thousands of years ago. There are stories of mythical animals found in our constellations and in our folk tales. We build zoos to hold mysterious animals from all over the world and we help animals on the brink of extinction. Animals can be found in homes all around the country and all around the world. There are thousands of interesting animals to look at and study. Animals from Australia are different from animals in Alaska. What do they look like and how are they shaped? Find an animal and let's make it.

### **Educational Objectives:**

This lesson provides opportunities for students to:

- Understand how to construct a three dimensional object using different forms in clay
- Learn how to plan and assemble pieces of clay
- Understand the kiln firing process
- Learn how to use multiple materials to create free standing animals
- Understand the use of glazes for color and design
- Explore animals

### **References:**

The University of Michigan Museum of Zoology  
Animal Search  
PBS--Nature

<http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu>  
<http://animalsearch.net>  
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature>

### **Teaching Tips:**

- This project could be open to fantasy animals and animal blends.
- Animal research should be done before this project begins.
- Discuss exaggerated features to add character to the students work.

### **Duncan Materials:**

For 30 Students

#### **Envision™ Glazes.**

- 10, 4 oz. Envision™ Glazes in assorted colors

#### **Crystals™ Glazes**

- 10, 4 oz. Crystals™ Glazes in assorted colors

#### **Brushes/Tools:**

- BR 593 3/4-inch Economy Glaze Brush
- TL 401 Cleanup tool
- TL 415 Sponge

#### **Miscellaneous Materials:**

- 60 lbs. White bodied earthenware clay

# *Duncan* Colorful Animals - - Ceramic Art Lesson Plan

- Board to roll out clay
- Three inch PVC pipe from the local hardware store
- Water containers
- Disposable plates to hold animal parts.
- Paper towels
- Water bowls

## Step-By-Step:

1. Give each student 2-lbs of white clay.
2. Roll out six inch long, half-inch round cylindrical lengths of clay.
3. Fold the cylindrical lengths over the three-inch PVC pipe. Where the clay touches the table, press the clay to the table with your thumb or finger. Pinch off the extra clay leaving little feet flat on the table.
4. Animal heads will vary, so some research is going to be needed. Construct your head and specifically identify characteristics that your animal has such as bushy hair, long manes, long necks, long tails, and stubby tails. Exaggerating these features will make your animals have character.
5. Score the areas of the two pieces to be joined with an opened paper clip. Wet the two surfaces, press them together and smooth them until completely joined.
6. Use extra clay pieces to create the tale or any other characteristic that will help identify the animal.
7. Textures can be pressed into the surface to add decoration or to show fur, feathers or other details.
8. Move completed animals to a flat surface covered with newspaper and allow it to dry thoroughly (about one week).
9. Fire at cone 04.
10. The clay will have to be completely dry. You can test the dryness of the clay by touching the clay to your face. If it is cold and not light in color it is still wet and will explode in the kiln when fired. Bisque fire at cone 04.
11. Glaze heads and tails with Envision™ Glazes in assorted colors. Glaze bodies with Crystal™ Glazes in assorted colors. You will need to choose a creative color. The results will be different every time! Fire to cone 06.

## Project Closure:

### Language Arts connection and project closure

Write and illustrate a brief description of this project, include detailed descriptions of the materials used and what happened during this project.

National Standards for the Arts:

<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/ArtsStandards.html>

<http://www.mcrel.org/compendium/Standard.asp?SubjectID=13>

State Standards:

<http://edstandards.org/Standards.html>

Or refer to the Dept. of Education for a specific state.

***Please visit [www.duncanceramics.com](http://www.duncanceramics.com), Art Educators tab, Learn tab to view the Standards based Vocabulary and Language Instruction, Art Project Rubric, and Writing Rubric documents.***