

**Family  
Activity Worksheet**

**GARDEN MUSEUM**

by local Artist Rachel Hogg

**Learn to make your own clay plant garden**

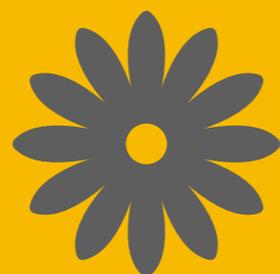


“As an artist I’m inspired by the beautiful plants found in the garden and their delicate forms, intricate shapes and textures. I have recently been making these clay models which have helped me to better understand and observe the plants in my garden. The garden is such a special place and is the home to many precious wildlife species and it’s our job as those who love nature and enjoy spending time in the garden to make sure we look after it.”

-Rachel Hogg



Make your  
own clay  
plant  
garden.



**Step 1:** You will need.

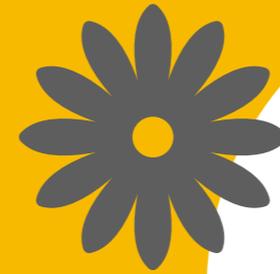
1. Air dry clay.
2. Acrylic paint and paint brushes.
3. Small dish with a little water for mixing clay slurry.
4. Tools for shaping and cutting clay (i.e rolling pin, plant shaped cookie cutters, plastic knife, wooden stick or anything that can make a mark in clay).
5. A wooden board or plastic mat for working with the clay, so that it doesn't stick to your table.
6. Somewhere dry but not too hot to leave your clay to dry.
7. Air tight container for unused clay.



I love Cacti!  
I like to draw them  
and make clay plants  
using them for  
inspiration.

What's your favourite  
plant?

**Step 2:** Massage your clay to make it nice and soft (remember to keep any clay your not using in an air tight container to stop it drying out).

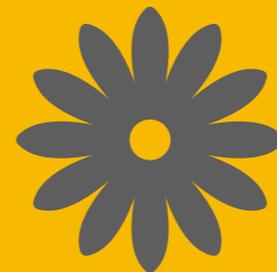


What plants are growing in your garden?  
Can you find any to use for inspiration?



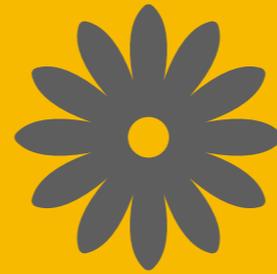
**Step 3:** Using your hands and any clay modelling tools you have, shape the clay into the different shapes you need for your plant.

You could try drawing a leaf on a piece of paper and then cutting the clay around your drawing to form the shape of a leaf. You could also roll the clay in your hands to create a sausage like shape for a stem. Alternatively, plant shaped cookie cutters are an easy way of making shapes out of clay.



**Top tip!** How to make 'clay slurry' if you want to stick two pieces of clay together.

1. Using a small amount of soft clay and water mix together to create a creamy texture.
2. Use a plastic knife or pointed wooden stick to create cross hatch lines on the area of both pieces of clay that you want to stick together.
3. Apply 'clay slurry' to the areas where you have put the cross hatching
4. Gently push the two pieces of clay together, join and smooth the edges of the clay together using the slurry.
5. Once the two pieces of clay are joined together be very careful with your clay plant, as pieces of clay can easily come apart before the clay is dry.



**Step 4:** Once you've created your clay plant leave it too dry for a minimum of 48 hours in a dry but not too hot place. The thicker the pieces of clay the longer it will take to dry but resist trying to speed up this process by putting the clay in direct sun light, as the clay can crack when drying if heated too quickly.



Are there any plants growing in your house?  
What shaped leaves do they have?

**Step 5:** Once your clay plants are completely dry use your acrylic paint to add some colour. Only use a very small amount of water as too much water will make the clay get all wet again. Once you've painted your plants leave them to dry. Add extra layers of paint if necessary.



You could try painting your plant outside so that you have lots of plants around you to use as a reference.

Consider using different shades of green and yellow to make your plant look more realistic.