

#MuseumMake



根付

Netsuke

Welcome to #MuseumMake - a fun craft activity inspired by The Powell-Cotton Museum. Today we are looking at netsuke, a Japanese object used to fasten a container to your clothing.



You will need:

- About 50 grams of polymer clay
- Modelling tools
- A piece of ribbon or string to hang your netsuke
- Pencil and paper for your netsuke design.

1. Make a sketch of the animal you want to make for your netsuke.

2. Take your polymer clay and warm it up by rolling it between your hands. If you are using different colours start with the lightest colour first.

3. Split the clay into three portions. One for the head, one for the body and one for any features.

4. Make the main body shape then the head, legs and any other features. Fix these onto the body of your animal. Use a pencil to make a vertical hole through the body of your netsuke.

5. Use the last portion of clay to make the bead. Roll the clay into a ball and use a tool to make a hole through it.

6. Bake your netsuke using the how-to-bake guide.

7. When your netsuke is cold thread your ribbon or string through the hole and tie a knot at the bottom.

Show us how yours turn out using #MuseumMake



Netsuke 'how to bake' guide

You will need:

- An oven set at 110c or Gas mark 1/4
- A baking tray
- Tin foil or a tin slightly larger than your netsuke

1. Ask your adult to set the oven to 110c or gas mark ¼ and preheat for at least 15 minutes.

2. Place the tin, or foil on a baking tray making sure your work will have excess tin foil surrounding it. Carefully put your Netsuke on the tin foil and ask an adult to put in the oven ready to bake for 10-15 minutes.

3. Baking the clay must be carried out by the supervising adult. The clay must not be put in the microwave.

4. Ask an adult to carefully remove from the oven and allow it to cool completely for an hour. When the Netsuke comes out it may be a bit soft but once it's cooled, your Netsuke will become hard.

5. When your netsuke is cold thread your ribbon or string through the hole and tie a knot at the bottom.

