

Air Dry Trinket Bowl

Our March crafts are nature themed to coincide with the NEA Big Read: Sangamon County program through the Academy of Lifelong Learning at Lincoln Land Community College. This program is aimed at broadening our understanding of our world, communities, and ourselves through sharing the joy of a good book. The chosen book is Lab Girl by Hope Jahren.

Find out more about the Big Read and the many other events here:

<https://www.llcc.edu/community-education/academy-lifelong-learning/nea-big-read-sangamon-county/>

Supplies

Included : Paint, air dry clay, sandpaper

Not Included: parchment paper/wax paper, flat sided bottle or rolling pin, leaf or flowers (dried or fresh), straight edge or exacto knife

1. Go out into your yard or the park to find several leaves, flowers and other dried grasses that might give you a good impression.
2. The clay needs to be softened a bit first before rolling, so knead the air dry clay so that it warms up and softens, for a few minutes.
3. Roll out the clay to about a $\frac{1}{8}$ " thickness.
4. Determine the shape of the trinket bowl by cutting out the shape using a straight edge or exacto knife. You can use a bowl, cup or other objects to help you shape your clay. NOTE: To smooth the edges before air drying, dip your finger in a little bit of water and rub on clay to smooth out the rough edges.
5. Place the leaves or other materials that you would like to imprint onto the clay.



6. Use the bottle or rolling pin to roll the organic material into the clay to make an impression.



7. Gently remove the organic material from the clay. If they stick, use a toothpick to lift them out.



8. The air dry clay used in this tutorial takes about 24 hours to dry and does not require baking. I placed it on a mug that I used to give it a little curve while it dries.
9. Once the clay is dry, sand the edge to smooth out the rough edges
10. (optional) Paint the imprinted to give the trinket bowl dimension.
- If your clay begins cracking, simply add a few drops of water with your fingertips to create more moisture and pliability.

