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# VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

Workshop:

## **If I Were A Bird...**

Learn basic geography, symbolism,  
and clay building techniques.

### **Teaching Arist:**

Allie Spicer

[allie@snowcityarts.org](mailto:allie@snowcityarts.org)

Workshop duration: 30-45 min



# Project Steps

## PART I: DRAW A FLAG

1. Create a square piece of paper out of your 8.5" x 11" piece of paper.
  - a. Position your paper in a portrait position, with the short side on top.
  - b. Hold your paper from the top left corner of the 8.5" (short) side.
  - c. Fold your paper in a diagonal to line up the top edge of your paper with the 11" (long) right side of your paper.
2. When the edges are lined up precisely, make a crease in the diagonal fold. Make sure your top edge stays lined up with the right side of the paper. With the paper folded, you should see a right triangle on the top of your piece of paper. Below this triangle, you should see a rectangle.
3. Fold the bottom edge upwards until it aligns with the bottom of your right triangle, make a crease fold here. The **crease fold** is the top of your rectangle.
4. Turn your paper over and fold that same rectangle fold again, this time backward. The top of your rectangle is a crease fold, that has been created twice now.
5. With your triangle still folded, unfold your rectangle.
  - a. With one hand, and using a table surface, hold down the triangle portion and with the other hand, hold down the rectangle portion.
  - b. Slowly begin to tear the two shapes apart on the top rectangle crease fold.
  - c. You can recycle the rectangle shape piece of paper, you will not need this.
  - d. Unfold your triangle shape to reveal a square piece of paper.

## PART 2: CHOOSE YOUR FLAG

6. Choose one country to research: One you would like to visit, where your family is from, or a country you believe has a cool looking flag.
7. Use Google to look up the flag for the country you have chosen.
  - a. Describe the features of the flag and question the symbolism of the different features.
8. Next, use Google Maps to find the geographic location of the country you chose.
  - a. Next, find Chicago in Google Maps

# Project Steps Continued

- b. Zoom out so you can see Chicago in relation to your country
- c. Ask Google for the distance, in miles, from your country of choice to Chicago.

9. After researching, recreate your chosen country's flag on your piece of paper using markers. This drawing can be representational, meaning identical, or abstract meaning your own interpretation of the flag.

## PART 3: MAKE BIRD WINGS

10. We will practice using division by learning how to create a tear-fold with your square piece of paper, dividing your square into two halves.

- a. Fold your paper into a right triangle along the original fold you first created to transform your paper into a square.
- b. Flip your paper over and on this same fold, create a backward fold, giving it another good crease with your finger or with a marker. I like to say it will look like a taco.
- c. Open up the paper and rotate it so it looks like a diamond.
- d. From the top of the diamond, and using the table surface, hold down one side of the piece of paper with one hand.
- e. Hold down the other side with your other hand and slowly begin to separate the two sides by tearing it down the middle fold line.

11. You should have two triangles at this point. Set one triangle aside.

12. Rotate the first triangle so the widest point is facing to the right. You will be folding as if you are creating a fan.

- a. Now fold this triangle in half, giving it a good crease, using your finger or a marker.
- b. Again, this will look like a taco. Keeping your taco folded, take the top side of the taco and fold it towards you, leaving half an inch between your fold and the bottom edge of your taco.
- c. Fold this back up in the same way, leaving half inch between the bottom and top side of your taco.
- d. Continue folding in this back and forth motion, keeping the right side of your folds aligned.
- e. You are now creating an accordion-like fold until you run out of paper.

13. Grab your second piece of paper and repeat step 12. You will end up with two accordion-folded triangles. These are your wings. Set both of these wings aside for now.

# Project Steps Continued

14. While creating your bird's wings, we will learn about bird migration, connecting this idea to human migration.
- One sound I love to hear in the morning is the sound of birds chirping. It reminds me that spring is coming, as birds are migrating north, after spending the winter in the south where it is warmer.
  - Humans also migrate on foot, bikes, cars, buses, trains and planes.
  - Now let's learn a little more about human flight.
  - I'm excited to introduce you to two pioneer female aviators, Bessie Coleman and Amelia Earhart, while you practice making your birds wings.
  - Amelia Earhart was the first female pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic ocean, receiving great fame for this feat.
  - Bessie Coleman was the first Black/Native American female American to become a pilot, having to go to France for her license because the U.S. would not allow her to go through training as a black woman.
  - Both were pioneer women in aviation at the same time, but only one, Amelia Earhart, is well documented in American history. Can you think about why that might be the case?

## PART 4: SCULPT A BIRD BODY

15. Open two packages of model magic clay and combine them by kneading them together.
16. Once the two parts of clay have become one, use both hands or one hand and a table surface to make a sphere or ball shape.
- To do this, put the entire clump of clay in one hand (or between one hand and a flat surface) and with the other hand move your sphere in a clockwise fashion, or circular manner.
  - Applying pressure, use the same circular motion to knead your clay, this time in a counter-clockwise fashion.
17. You have created a semi-formed ball shape. Place one hand on the top of the ball and again, slowly move your hand counter-clockwise, applying a little pressure downwards. Continue to do so until a round sphere forms.
18. With your hands, or one hand and the flat surface, roll your sphere into an egg shape or something that looks like a large Tic Tac (the candy).

# Project Steps Continued

19. Holding your Tic Tac horizontally, begin to gently pull out one end of the Tic Tac, so it begins to look like an egg. One end of the egg will be fat and one end thin.

20. Use your fingers to pinch the wider part of your egg into the shape of a bird's tail.

21. Use your fingers to squeeze the skinny part of the head to make the bird's neck and head.

22. Use your fingers to pinch a small beak out from the head.

23. This is the bird body base. You can make any design adjustments you like, however, apply pressure gently.

## PART 5: ATTACH WINGS TO BIRD

24. Pick up one of your accordion folded triangles, squeezing it together so it looks like a compressed accordion or fan. Keep this pinched together.

- a. With the straight edge, insert all the pinched folds into the right side of your bird all at once. Make sure the wing is inserted deep enough.
- b. The clay will act as glue to keep your wings attached.
- c. Pinch the clay around the edges of the wings for security.

25. Repeat the process on the left side of your bird.

26. If you notice the head or tail of your bird starting to fall or droop, create a ball with the foil clay wrappers from your model magic packaging and gently place underneath the head or tail end until the sculpture is completely dry.

27. Let your bird sculpture dry for 24 hours before moving it.

28. Now it's time to decorate your bird with markers. Think about what details you would like to add: shapes, colors, patterns, realistic and/or unrealistic bird characteristics.

29. Congratulations, you've created a clay bird. Time to celebrate! I'm very proud of all your work and look forward to making more art with you in other videos.

**If you are interested in receiving school credit** for the work you have completed in this workshop, please [have a parent or guardian if under 18] complete a release form at **[tinyurl.com/y764xes5](https://tinyurl.com/y764xes5)**

**If you would like to have your artwork displayed** in a Snow City Arts exhibition space or virtual gallery, please [have a parent or guardian if under 18] complete a release form at **[tinyurl.com/y764xes5](https://tinyurl.com/y764xes5)**

**If you would like to continue working virtually** with one of our Teaching Artists, please [have a parent or guardian if under 18] schedule at **[snowcityarts.as.me/schedule.php](https://snowcityarts.as.me/schedule.php)**

We invite you to share the work you created with us. Please **upload images of your artwork [tinyurl.com/y8z9tlfs](https://tinyurl.com/y8z9tlfs)**.

**Contact Veronica Stein, Program Director** if you have questions, or would like to offer feedback at **[veronica@snowcityarts.org](mailto:veronica@snowcityarts.org)**



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