

Sun Worshippers

The sun was an important image in Aztec art. Clay suns are still made in Mexico by the Nahua, the descendants of the Aztecs. Here is how you can make a clay sun to decorate your room.

MATERIALS:

1 cup flour
½ cup of salt
½ cup of water
tempera paint (gold and other colors)
acrylic gloss varnish

DIRECTIONS:



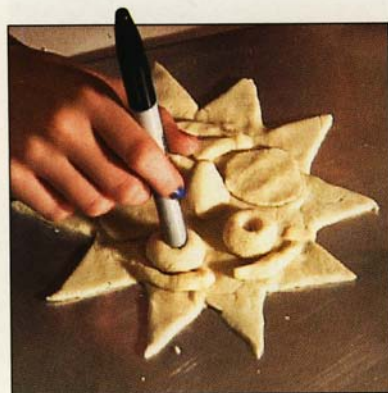
1. To make salt dough: Mix salt and flour. Stir in about half the water, then gradually add the rest of the water. On a piece of wax paper or a pastry board, knead the dough until it is smooth. Then roll or pat it out until it is about ¼ inch thick.



2. On a piece of scrap paper, draw a circle with a diameter of about 4 inches. Cut out the circle.



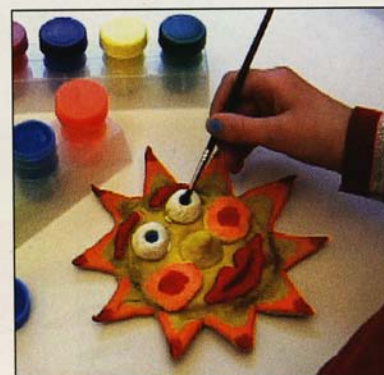
3. Put the paper circle on the dough and cut around it. Remove the paper and move the dough to a cookie sheet with a spatula. If it loses its shape around the edges, wet your fingers and reshape it.



4. With the extra dough, use a plastic knife to make eyes, nose, mouth, and triangular shapes to put around the sun. Attach the shapes to the sun with wet fingers. Make a small hole in the top for hanging the sun.



5. Bake in a preheated oven at 325 degrees for about 1½ hours.



6. When the baked dough has cooled, paint with tempera paints mixed with a little acrylic gloss varnish (about ¾ paint to ¼ varnish).

