



## Talavera de Puebla

### WORKSHOP TITLE

### DESCRIPTION

Cinco de Mayo commemorates a battle between Mexican and French armies that took place on May 5, 1862, in the Mexican city of Puebla. The outnumbered Mexican army defeated the French in a battle that lifted spirits and gave hope to Mexicans.

This activity will dive into Puebla's history through an exploration of its iconic art style, known as *Talavera*. This style is said to have been influenced by Spanish and Chinese artisans via trade routes. The *Talavera Poblana's* decorative designs include flowers, vines, birds, and vegetation, amongst many other things! Through the years, the *Talavera* ceramic style traveled throughout Mexico, where its signature design (known as *Talavera Poblana*) combined with each region's cultural influences.

This activity will guide you through the process of making your own *Talvera* tile inspired by Puebla's traditional designs. Learn how to make a homemade clay that will be formed and shaped using introductory ceramic techniques, and then painted in the traditional *Talavera Poblana* style!

### MATERIALS

#### Air-dry Clay Recipe 1:

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup water

#### Air-dry Clay Recipe 2:

- 1 cup baking soda
- ½ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup water
- spatula
- pot

#### Other Supplies:

- large mixing bowl
- rolling pin
- butterknife
- paints
- paint brush
- wax paper
- plastic wrap
- plate
- liquid glue
- pencil

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. Can you think of other forms of art that come from specific places?
2. How can art give insight to a place and its culture?



# WORKSHOP INSTRUCTIONS

## HOW TO MAKE AIR-DRY CLAY:

Pick a recipe depending on materials you have at home.

### Recipe 1:

1. Measure 2 cups of plain flour, 1 cup of salt, and 1 cup of cold water.
2. Mix all ingredients in a large bowl and knead the dough using your hands until it is smooth.

### Recipe 2:

1. Measure 1 cup of baking soda, ½ cup of cornstarch, and a ½ a cup of water. Mix all ingredients in a small pot.
2. Once the water is dissolved, place on stovetop over medium heat, an adult will need to help with you with this step. Stir frequently using a spatula until a sticky dough begins to form, let cool and knead until it is smooth.

## HOW TO MAKE A TALAVERA TILE:

1. On a large flat workspace, place a large sheet of wax paper. Place your ball of dough in the center of the sheet.
2. With your hands or a rolling pin, flatten the dough out evenly. Make sure to work solely on the wax paper or your dough may stick to your surface.
3. Once the dough is evenly flat, use a butterknife to cut out a square. Place scraps to the left and cover them with plastic wrap. Use the left-over dough to create something else later!
4. Smooth the square corners and surface using your index finger and water. Make sure you don't add too much or else the dry time will take longer!
5. Place the tile on the plate and set to dry in a place with enough ventilation like a window or outside for 24 hours.
6. Once dried, paint a thick layer of white paint as the base. Let dry for 60 minutes.
7. Once the base paint is dry, use a pencil to draft a design onto your tile! Keep in mind the style of *Talaveras de Puebla*.
8. If you are happy with your design, use a thin paintbrush and blue paint to trace over your design! Let dry for 60 minutes.
9. Time to glaze! Once your tile is completely dry, apply a layer of liquid glue using a paintbrush. Make sure to apply a thin and even layer throughout the entire tile. Let dry overnight!
10. Once done, share with your family and friends! Make sure to adorn your house with your tile.

