

Castle Tea light holders

Age:6-11 Group size: 4-11

Duration: 60mins plus 30mins for painting



Preparation time: 20 mins

Resources

- Air drying clay
- Water
- Clay tools/lollipop sticks, blunt knives
- Rolling pins
- Rulers
- Tea lights/templates
- Pastry cutter (round castle) 6cms diameter
- Templates 7cms x 10cms and 7.5cms x10cms (square castle) and 27cmsx10cms (round castle)
- Paint – white, grey
- Brushes



Preparation

Each child will need 4 or 5 small fistfuls of clay, a ruler, tools and a rolling pin.

There are 2 different castle tea light holders. The round one is probably the easier of the 2. Each child should have a tea light or a circle representing one, to measure against. Make

enough templates for one per pair of children if they are making the round one and one of each size if you making the square one.

Activity

Whichever castle you choose to make, you will need to make the holder for the tea light first.

Take a small lump of clay and make it into a sausage shape.



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Roll it into a long rectangle. Use the tea light to see if the sausage is long enough to wrap around it.

Use a ruler to cut the clay so that it is 2cms wide strip.

Use the spare clay to roll into a ball. Dampen it with a little water if it shows signs of drying out. Roll it out and use the cutter to make a circle. Place the tea light in the middle of the circle and press it in lightly to act as a guide.



Use a clay knife to score the outline of the tea light. Wet the bottom edge of the 2cms strip and stand it on the scored outline. Cut off any excess when it is wrapped around. Wet the 2 edges, overlap them and push them together.

Gently push the 2cms strip down on the base, then use the edge of a tool or a lolly stick to push the seams together.



For the square castle base make a 7cms square base for the strip to sit on.

Round castle – make a large lump of clay out of the remaining clay. Make a thick sausage and roll out into a long wide rectangle. It should be about 4mm thick. Cut it so that it is 27cms long and 10cms wide.

Cut out battlements, a door and 4 windows. Space the windows and doors so that the candlelight will shine out in the dark. Score the ends of the castle, stand it up, wet them and press them together.



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Seal the edges with a tool. Lightly score the walls to look like stone work.



Square castle – take 4 small lumps of clay. Roll each lump out to a thickness of 8mms. Cut out the walls using the templates as a guide. Cut

battlements and 2 windows in each one. Put an arched door and 2 small windows in one of them. Score the edges of each wall and wet them. Also score the 4 edges of the tea light base. Place each wall around the edge of the tea light base, one at a time. Put the 2 wide ones opposite each other. As each one is added, seal the edges with water and a stick. Carefully turn it over and seal the bottom as well. Score lines to make the walls look like they have been built from stone blocks.



Leave the tea lights to dry out. Paint the inside and outside of the tea lights white. The white will help the top colours to look brighter and the light inside to be reflected better. Paint the outside of the castles grey. Extra detail can be added by painting on grass and climbing plants around the walls.

