



City Skyline Silhouette

GRADES 4-12

Cross Curricular: Art,
Social Studies and Math

*Lesson Plan and Artwork by
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DESCRIPTION

We learn early in our art education that the horizon line is an imaginary line where the sky meets the ground. A skyline is the imaginary line in a city where the sky meets the building tops. We can see this division of space even more dramatically when the sky is light and buildings darken such as at sunset or sunrise. This is called a silhouette.

National Core Arts Standards-Visual

Creating

Anchor Standard #1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard #3: Refine and complete artistic work.

Presenting

Anchor Standard #5: Develop and refine artistic work for presentation.

Connecting

Anchor Standard #10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to art.

OBJECTIVES

- Observe and identify what a city skyline is.
- Identify and name basic building shapes and forms.
- Create a slab clay relief tile depicting a real or imaginary city skyline or silhouette.
- Use various tools to texture the city buildings and add detail.



DIRECTIONS

1. Fold a 9"x 12" piece of paper in half. On this 6"x 9" sheet, draw a city skyline, real or imaginary. Make the buildings of many geometric shapes and sizes.
2. Roll out two pounds of clay into a 1/4" slab. Place drawing on the slab and trim around the edge making a 6"x 9" rectangle.
3. Place the drawing back on the slab and, using a ball point pen, draw gently but firmly enough to transfer lines onto the clay slab.
4. Cut out the city buildings on the skyline only. Keep the buildings moist and soft.
5. Roll out another ball of clay from your wedged trimmings and make another 6"x 9" rectangle. Roll to 1/8" - 1/4" thickness.
6. Place city clay shape onto new background rectangle. Gently draw over again, but only the skyline. Score and slip the back of the city and the front of the new rectangle below your drawn skyline and press together. Be sure to gently press out any air bubbles. You now have a raised city of buildings on top of a flat background tile with the sky showing.
7. Using various tools, draw and press into city buildings architectural details: Windows, edges, shapes etc.
8. Draw details into sky if you wish: Clouds, birds, airplanes, stars etc.
9. Allow tile to slowly dry between newspaper and sheetrock layers. Fire only when dry to cone 04, (1949°F.)
10. Glaze city and sky with Mayco Stroke and Coat glaze.
11. Details and linear items may be accented with Mayco Designer Liner.
12. Clean any glaze off relief tile back and fire to cone 05, (1888°F.)



MATERIALS

Item #	Description
9-229167-739	Mayco® Stroke & Coat® Wonderglaze, Assorted Colors, 2 oz. Bottles, Set of 12
9-1589253-739	Mayco® Designer Liner, Assorted, 1.25 oz., Set of 6
8-200366-739	Sax® Low Fire Earthenware Versatile White Clay, 50 lbs.
9-402383-739	Jack Richeson™ Boxwood Modeling Tools, Set of 72
9-409782-739	Clay Slabmaking Kit
9-407369-739	Jack Richeson™ Hole Cutters, Set of 4
9-385142-739	Kemper Fettling Knife, Soft Blade, 4-1/2 in, Each
9-411828-739	Color Shapers™ Small Clay Modeling Tool Set, Black, Size 0, Set of 5
9-1289641-739	Royal® Classroom Ceramic Value Pack, Set of 16