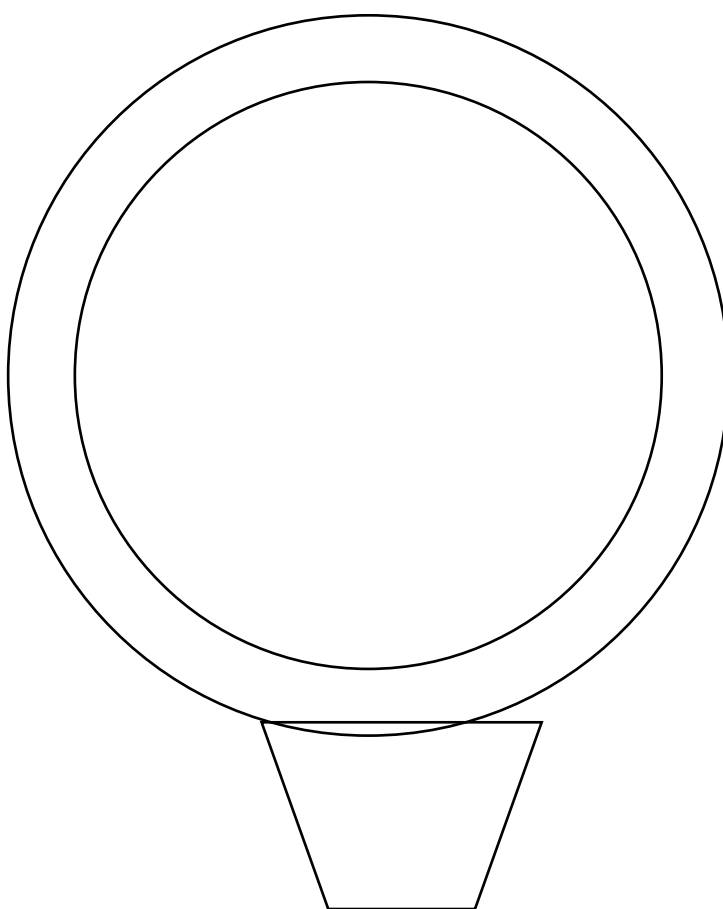


Make a decorative clay lamp

Suggested ages 7+ with adult help | Template and activity sheet

Plan an ornament. No oil, wick or flame.



My rim pattern: _____

My symbol: _____

Make a decorative clay lamp

Suggested ages 7+ with adult help | Making guide and ideas

You will need

Air-dry clay, a work mat, a small amount of water and a blunt modelling tool. The PDF is a planning and making guide.

Try it together

1. Draw your design on the outline. Roll a small ball of clay and gently pinch it into a shallow bowl. 2. Pinch one side into a short spout and smooth the base so it sits flat. Add a small clay loop only if it will hold securely. 3. Press a simple pattern into the rim with a blunt tool. Follow the clay maker's drying instructions. 4. Display it as an ornament only: do not add oil, a wick, heat or flame.

Check, discuss and extend

Compare the ornament with the museum object: which features are similar and which are different? Let the clay dry fully before decorating if its maker recommends that.

History and context

Ancient pottery lamps held fuel and a wick. The linked museum example is a mould-made terracotta lamp. Our air-dry clay ornament uses a simpler open shape and is not a working lamp.

Explore the evidence

Metropolitan Museum of Art: Roman oil lamp

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/247457>