

BRONZE HORSES Children's sculpture activity

DEPICTED IN SCULPTURE, painting, and mosaics, the horse is a favorite subject in Ancient Greek art. Hundreds of horse images bear witness to the horse's importance as a task animal, a means of transportation, an instrument of war, and as symbol of high status. Only the well-to-do could afford horses. As in all times, the horse is also a living symbol of beauty, grace, and strength. The term **Geometric** in Greek art refers to the art of the 9th and 8th centuries when geometric patterns and designs were popular as a style. In Geometric art the forms of humans and animals are reduced to simple abstracted shapes with minimal attention paid to life-like anatomy. The effect and charm in Geometric art is dependent on an interesting contour and shape, the use of positive and negative space, and design as a whole rather than the ability of artists to render realistic details. The Geometric horses and other bronzes in the Carlos Museum comprised of simple shapes have a special appeal. The playful contrasts between different shapes, thick and thin forms and lines lend these sculptures an alert and energetic expressiveness. Made of cast bronze, they were mainly found in sanctuaries as religious offerings to the gods. Horse statuettes like these suggest the owner's status and honor the power of the gods **Zeus**, **Poseidon**, and **Athena**. Although many of the horses were freestanding statuettes, others could be attached to vessels or other objects

Materials

- latex horse molds
- Sculpy
- modeling tools
- pin backs
- baking instructions for Sculpy

Procedure

- Step 1. Brush rubber mold with mold release if needed.
- Step 2. Fill mold cavity with sculpy
- Step 3. Flex rubber mold as shown and gently pull horse from the cavity.
- Step 4. Place sculpy horse on flat surface, repair disconnected parts and smooth over.
- Step 5. Bake horse at home at 275 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes.
- Step 6. Glue pin-back on the reverse side of the horse, let dry and enjoy.



Step 1.



Step 2.



Step 3.



Horse

Greek, said to be from Olympia. Geometric Period, 2nd half of the 8th century B.C. Bronze. Carlos Collection of Ancient Greek Art