

Making a Cartouche

A cartouche is a kind of nameplate. Ancient Egyptians used cartouches for kings, queens, and other high-ranking people in the kingdom. A cartouche consists of a number of different hieroglyphic symbols enclosed in a loop.

Materials

Sculpey Clay
Acrylic Paints and Ceramic Sealer
Antiquing Stain
Rolling Pin or Brayer
Hieroglyphic Stamps (see helpful hint below)

Creating the Cartouche

- 1- Roll out Sculpey using a rolling pin, brayer, or side of a can to about 3/8" inches thick.
- 2- Cut out cartouche shape. A great way to do this is by setting a ruler over the Sculpey and cutting it on each side with a butter knife. To round out the edges set a quarter at top and bottom and cut around them. It is also helpful to create multiple templates from cardboard or heavy tagboard for students ahead of time.
- 3- Roll out long coil pieces to be used around the edges and at the bottom as shown in example photos.
- 4- Add hieroglyphics using stamps or carve them using pencils.
- 5- Add large coil along outside edge meeting at bottom of cartouche.
- 6- Add cross bar and three small pieces to create the "rope" at the bottom.
- 7-Bake as directed. 15 minutes at 275 degrees.
- 8- Paint desired color, spray with sealant, antique with antiquing stain, add final coat of sealant.

Helpful Hints

Images can be transferred onto unpainted Sculpey using photocopies from a copier machine. Have students draw out their own hieroglyphs on a template and copy. After Sculpey is shaped you can place the photocopy with the image side flat against the Sculpey. Bake as directed. The image will transfer (in reverse) onto the Sculpey in the oven. Students can then paint the areas around the Hieroglyphic image.

The hieroglyphic stamps used in the sample photos are from the book
Fun with Hieroglyphs by Catharine Roehrig.
They book can be found on amazon.com

