

# NETSUKE



## Materials:

Air-dry clay

Craft stick

Toothpick

Water

Plastic Container

## Optional Materials:

Salt dough



## Instructions:

- Choose what small creature you want to make like a bird, frog, or rabbit.
- Break the air-dry clay into smaller pieces and on a hard surface roll them into small balls.
- If you don't have air-dry clay, you can use salt dough.
- To make a bird, roll one small ball the size of your thumb for the head. For the body, roll a ball twice the size of the head.
- Join the head and body by making lines with a toothpick where the pieces will join and add a small drop of water.
- Attach the two pieces together and use a craft stick to smooth over the outside of where they join.
- Remember to only use a small drop of water to join pieces together. Too much water can cause cracking, so let some evaporate if too much has been applied.
- For the wings of the bird, roll three small coils and join them together. Cut the piece in half and now you have two wings.
- Attach the wings to the body of the bird by making lines with a toothpick where they will join and adding a drop of water.
- Place the wings in such a way that they wrap around the body and meet together in the back. Squeeze where they meet together to fully attach them. Smooth the outside of where the wings join the body.
- To make the tail feathers of the bird, roll a small ball and make it into a fan shape.
- Once again use a toothpick to make lines where the tail feathers join the body. Smooth the outside of where the tail feathers and body meet.
- Use a toothpick to create eye sockets in the head of the bird and roll two tiny balls to fit into the space created as eyes.
- For the beak, create a conical shape and attach it with small lines to the head of the bird. Smooth the outside of where the beak and head join.
- Now smooth over any place that needs it and use a toothpick to add details like lines to represent feathers.
- Let your small creature dry for at least 24 hours. When it is fully dry, you can paint it if desired.