

A decorative graphic featuring a large, light blue dashed circle that frames the central text. Various solid-colored circles in shades of teal, green, yellow, orange, and pink are scattered around the perimeter. Some circles are solid, while others are dashed outlines. A large teal ring is in the top left, a yellow ring is in the bottom right, and a green ring with a white dot is in the bottom left.

Get the Ball
Rolling!

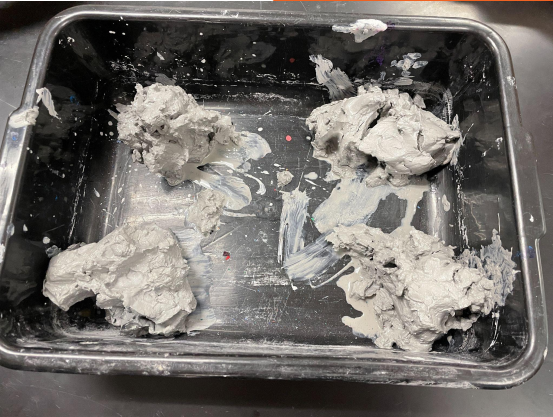
Dorodango



Dorodango (Japanese for “Mud Dumpling”) is an aesthetically pleasing artform where mud, clay, dirt, and other natural materials are compacted into a ball, and polished into a shiny decorative sphere.

Japanese Clay Ball





So how do we make them in a classroom?

- Start with leftover clay or recycled clay.
- Add dry powdered clay.
- Optional - Add dirt or sand as students are mixing ingredients together.

You can even put dirt into the mixture from a location significant to you!



Clay, dirt, and other materials are mixed and formed into a ball.



If they are still very sticky, roll in dry, powdered clay to coat the surface.

We store our dorodango on glass jars so they don't get flattened while drying.

Patience!

If you take anything from this slideshow today, remember this is going to take a little patience, but the results are so worth it!

We want our dorodango to be in a stage called leather hard: firm, but still carveable.



We are going to take our larger of the two jars and set the ball of clay onto it. With the clay ball on the lip of the jar, press down and roll the ball in all directions. This will “shave” the outer layers of the clay into a sphere! This will take a little bit of time; slow and steady makes the dorodango rounder!

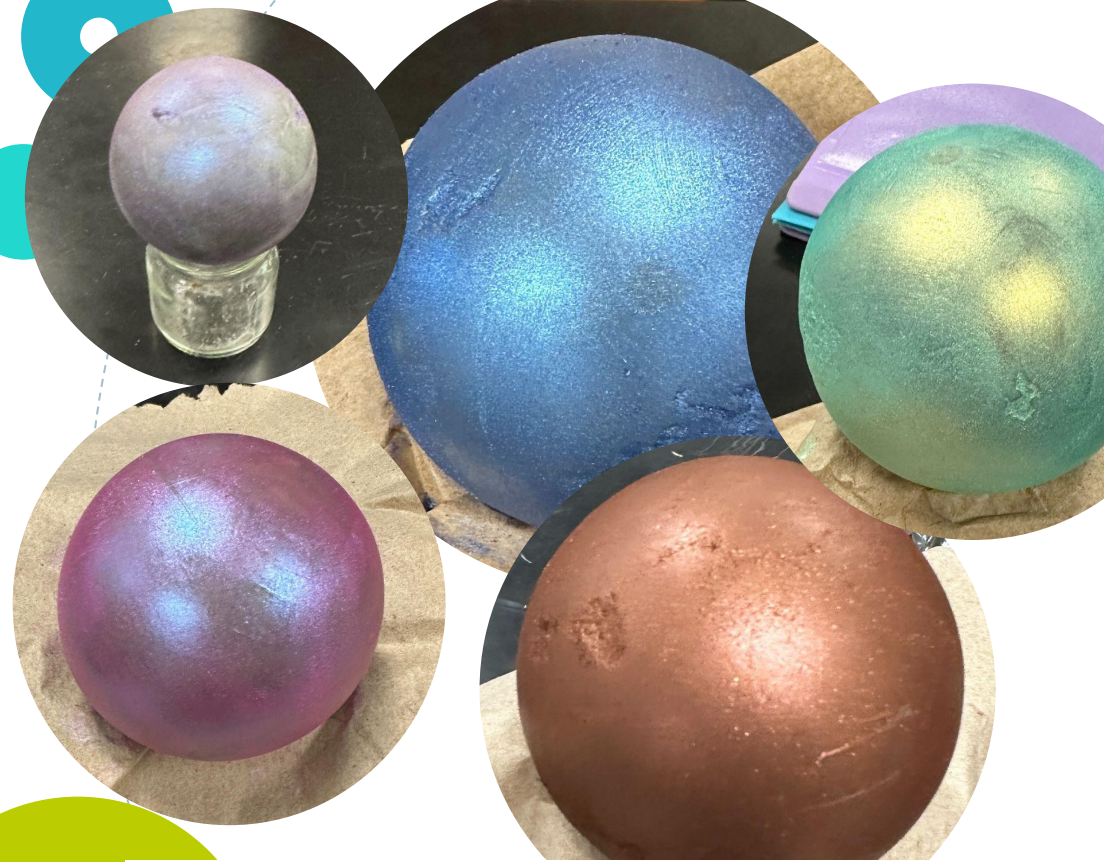


It is inevitable that you will have some pits and divots in your surface, this is part of what makes each one unique!

Start Polishing!

Once the dorodango has been shaped into a sphere, we will set it out to try a little more!

We will add some vaseline to the surface of our new ball and rub the vaseline in using a piece of felt. This will seal the dry clay in a bit and start the polishing process.



We are going to cover the surface with mica powder! It will not look like this when we are done, we will be removing most of the color and marbling it during the next stage.

Polish!

Use the small jar again to buff/ polish the surface of the ball! It will take off some of the color and you can always add another layer of vaseline and mica powder!

