

What do I need?

Air dry clay

Rolling pin

Drinking cup

Flowers and leaves

Acrylic paints

Paintbrushes

Clear varnish
(optional)



Earth Day coasters

What do I do?

Look at page 2 to learn about Earth Day, which is celebrated around the world on April 22nd.

Using your rolling pin, roll out your modelling clay on a non-stick surface to about 1cm thick.

Cut circular shapes from your clay by pressing down firmly with the rim of your drinking cup. Make as many circles as you like - you can always wrap any remaining clay in a plastic bag for a future craft activity.

Lay a leaf or flower on top of each of your clay circles. Use your hand or rolling pin to gently press them down so that they leave an imprint on the surface of the clay.

Peel the leaves and flowers away from the clay and set them aside on a non-stick surface to air dry. Leave them to dry for a couple of days or until the clay has hardened.

Now it's time to turn your clay circles into coasters by painting them with your paints. Why not use the colours of the Earth, like blue, green and brown?

Once the paint is fully dry you can paint it with a layer of varnish to make it watertight and protect it from spillages.

You can use your coasters in your home or wrap them as gifts for friends and family.

Earth Day

Earth Day is celebrated by people around the world on April 22nd. The day was founded in 1970 in the USA as a way to teach people about some of the rising issues facing our planet, such as water pollution, air pollution and deforestation. Today, many use Earth Day as a time to raise awareness of environmental issues, with communities joining together to plant trees, clean up litter and to reflect on the beauty of nature.

This Earth Day, why not take a moment to reflect on your own life and your connection with the Earth? What changes could you make to your lifestyle, garden or community to benefit the Earth?

Here are a few ideas:

- Plant native plants in your garden to increase biodiversity and soil health;
- Follow the 3 R's - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle;
- Use natural pesticides when gardening to protect wildlife and maintain soil health;
- Remove and litter from your local green spaces;
- Conserve water, don't waste it;
- Keep learning about the environment!



Poem

*Summer, fall, winter, spring,
The seasons rotate as each brings
Its special beauty to this Earth of ours.
Winter's snow and summer's flowers;
Frozen rivers will flow come spring,
There is a renewal of everything.*

-Edna Frohock (1906-97)

