

Pine Cone Gnomes

Gnomes embody the spirit of the element of earth; guardians of earth's treasures and caretakers of roots and seeds, rocks and minerals.



YOU WILL NEED:

- Pine cones
- Clay
- Sheep's wool or lichen
- Small black beads (optional)
- Cocktail stick or toothpick (optional)
- Leaves or felting wool for hats

TO MAKE:

1. First mould a ball of clay to resemble two chunky gnome's feet joined at the heels.



2. Onto this base, firmly place the pine cone and smooth the clay onto the cone to hold it in place. Make a worm-shape by rolling the clay in between your hands. Wrap this around the pine cone and join at the front for arms and hands.



3. Roll a ball for the head and firmly attach the clay head onto the top of the cone, smoothing it on with your fingers.



4. Press gently into the clay with your index fingers to create eye sockets and into these push two small black beads for eyes. Add a tiny ball of clay and mould a nose, and add clay ears.

5. Use a cocktail stick or small twig to carefully attach a beard of sheep wool or lichen under the nose and around the chin. You can make eyebrows in the same way.

6. Create a hat by rolling a leaf into a cone and pinning it together with a tiny stick.

7. Or you can make a wool hat by rolling and teasing coloured felting wool and using the cocktail stick to push it into the clay.