

This small model of a house was a tomb sculpture from the ancient people of the Nayarit region of West Mexico. This lively house contains different groups of people both alone and together, multiple levels, and a geometrically patterned roof.



*Model House, A.D. 200.*  
Mexico; Nayarit culture.  
Ceramic, pigment.  
Gift of Ethel and Julian Goldsmith.

## Social Gatherings



- What is this? How many people do you see? What are they doing? Where are they? What is this made out of?
- Have students look closely at the postures of the people and imitate the various poses. Ask them how they feel in each of these poses.
- Have each student make a clay figure like the ones in the picture.
- Make a clay base and have the students place their figures together to make a collaborative sculpture of a social gathering. What are the people doing? Where are they? Why are they together?

Illinois State Goals: 4, 19, 25, 26

## Build a House



- Discuss the house and its multiple levels. Talk about the shape and design of the roof, the walls, the stairs, and the room.
- Have students make a model house out of construction paper. Divide the students into small groups. Give each group a couple of sheets of construction paper. Instruct students to create a house by folding and tearing the paper.
- Have groups share their designs with each other.

Illinois State Goals: 4, 25, 26

## Long-Lasting Materials



- This object was made from clay, yet it has lasted for nearly 2,000 years.
- Engage students in a study about the decomposition of materials. Have students bring in objects from home that are made from different materials, such as metal, dough, clay, newspaper, or fabric.
- Have students bury the objects for a period of time or put them through a series of weathering tests to see which stands up best.

Illinois State Goals: 4, 12, 25, 26

Lines,  
Shapes,  
Colors

Animals

Transportation

Home

Play

This house needs a new roof.

