PROJECT:

Press mold brain

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

* What are the major areas of the brain and what do the control?

GOALS:

* create a small press mold brain that allows them to label its different parts
* Learn the major areas of the brain and their functions

PREPARATION:

* create small dowel stands for the clay brains
* create a ppt slide with the areas of the brain and their basic functions labeled on it
* divide clay into individual portions

MATERIALS:

* air dry clay
* several small press molds
* tempera or acrylic paint
* markers
* small tubs for water

SUBJECT CONNECTIONS:

* Overview of the physical characteristics of the brain

LEAD IN:

* show several examples of the brains major areas and list some of the functions of each.

PROCEDURES:

(do this over two classes)

1rst class:

* Presentation with examples
* demonstrate the press mold process
* hand out clay and put a press mold on each table
* have students take turns creating clay brains
* set brains aside to dry

2nd class:

* place brains on their stands
* review the sections of the brain
* have students paint each section a different color
* have students label each section (with markers)

CLOSING QUESTION:

* What are the different areas of the brain and where are they (review)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Knead clay into a ball (wet with water if it starts to dry)
2. press clay into your mold using your thumbs
3. Carefully remove clay from the mold being careful not to push on it too hard (teachers help with this)
4. use popsicle sticks to embellish the folds in the brain (make them deeper)
5. set aside to dry overnight
6. review the sections of the brain
7. paint each section a different color
8. let your paint dry
9. label each section with markers