

How to Make a Viking Chess Piece

Have you ever wanted to make something that you can play with? Do you love to play chess? Well, now you can make your own Viking chess pieces to give you hours of fun with your friends! Here is what you will need:

Equipment

- Air drying clay
- Modelling tools
- An apron
- Water
- A place to work

How to make your chess piece

1. Ensure that your work space is clear and protected from clay, (you don't want to get into trouble for making a mess!)
2. Take a ball of clay that just about fits in your hand. Split it in half and roll one half into a ball.
3. Next, achieve a cone shape by rolling your clay ball on one side, on the table (this is the body of your chess piece)
4. Now it is time to add features and decorate your chess piece.
5. Mould a helmet for your Viking by using two small worms of clay, criss-crossed over the point of the cone.
6. Beneath this helmet, create a nose (big or small – you decide!)
7. After that, use more of your spare clay to create a shield. A small, round ball that has been squashed flat works well here.
8. Decorate the shield however you like using your clay tools.
9. If you have any spare clay left at this point, you could make a cloak to go around your Viking's shoulders, and a spear to lean against his body.
10. Once your clay has dried out, you can decorate your chess piece.
11. Now you have your first chess piece – only another 31 to go!

Top tips for beginners:

- Use water to attach features to your Viking (they will stick better).
- Don't over-work your clay as it will dry out and crack.