Teacher Tips A Sticky Situation

Lesson 4
Designing a Wall

• Be sure to review wall structures from the wall walk, drawings that show arrangement of bricks, or photos of walls. Provide a demonstration or student exploration to compare a wall made with stacks of “bricks” (the rocks for this unit) and a wall made with staggered rocks with no mortar.

• Pre-measure some bowls with 1 scoop of clay and some with 2 scoops of clay.

• Consider adding a bowl of water for 3-4 pairs to use with a tablespoon for students to add their own water. Small amount of water is sufficient, ~ 1” deep. This provides more student control, and minimizes revisiting the materials table.

• Have students use craft stick to stir and spread mortar. Don’t add spoons.

• Bucket of water and towels for hand rinsing. Avoid washing clay materials into sink.

• If there is not time to allow the mortar to dry thoroughly (48 hours) before testing, use fans to speed drying time.
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