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## Art Masterpiece: "Porcupine" - Felipe Archuleta

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**Keywords:** Sculpture, Sculptor, Three-Dimensional, Folk Art and Texture

**Grade:** 2nd

**Activity:** Primitive Animal Sculpture



### Meet the Artist:

Felipe Archuleta was born (1910-1991) in Santa Cruz, New Mexico. As a young man he worked as a laborer picking vegetables, then became a cook in a restaurant. He later became a carpenter and worked for thirty years. When he was in his fifties, he didn't have a job or any money. He prayed that God would give him a skill that would change his life. The answer to his call was to carve animals out of wood. He became so busy that he had to hire assistants to help him keep up with the demand for his sculptures. He gave several young aspiring artists their start as carvers working for him. Archuleta made his sculptures out of wood that he found himself or obtained from his neighbors. He used glue and nails to assemble them. Archuleta's first sculptures were of animals he knew best - sheep, cats, rabbits and burros. Sometimes he made life-sized animal sculptures including more exotic animals like giraffes, elephants and monkeys. He is known for making his animals look fierce by giving them wide-eyed stares, irregular sharp teeth and long snouts. Their faces have a human-like look to them and are very expressive.

### Definitions:

**Sculpture:** a creation of a three-dimensional work of art, made by carving or modeling.

**Sculptor:** a person who makes a sculpture.

**Three-dimensional:** a figure that has length, width and depth. (Two dimensional only has length and width. (Example: a square is two-dimensional and a cube is three-dimensional).

**Folk Art:** art made by someone who has little or no art training. The art is very simple and uncomplicated. It does not look very sophisticated. It's usually made with found objects.

**Texture:** How an object would feel if you could touch it. (Hard, smooth, rough, soft, slimy)

**Possible Questions:**

- ❖ What do you see in this print? (What kind of animal)
- ❖ Does this animal look real? Describe how it looks to you
- ❖ Is this a painting or a sculpture?
- ❖ What do you think this porcupine is made out of (wood, twine, sticks, hay)
- ❖ How would it feel if you could touch it?

**Activity: Primitive Animal Sculpture**

- ❖ ask for suggestions of animals, be sure to also mention simple shaped animals that will be easy to form from one piece of model magic

**Materials needed:**

- ❖ Model Magic - one, 1 oz. pkg. per student. If using 4 oz. packages, divide into quarters
- ❖ Toothpicks or spaghetti
- ❖ Dry beans
- ❖ Paper towels
- ❖ Sample of the project (optional)

**Process:**

- ❖ Use one piece of model magic, do not use separate pieces for legs, etc
- ❖ Use toothpicks and/or spaghetti to give them texture
- ❖ Work on the project over the paper towel
- ❖ Be sure to have students carve their initials in their animals for identification. Allow a day to dry.