

# Grade 5 – Culminating Sculpture



Clay Form

What do you see?



Hippopotamus ("William"), 1961-1878 BC, Egypt

# Region – Northern Africa

- This area comprises northern Africa – we're focusing on Egypt.
- Non-clay based ceramics called Egyptian faience (fay-on-s)
- Egyptian faience is composed mainly of silica (sand and crushed quartz) and came earlier than glazed clay-based ceramics in this area.
- The earliest pottery in Africa dates back to at least 9,500 BC.



**Egypt**



# Examples: Contemporary Art



Variations of Space Series



Sol Yoon (1976)  
Lives in South Korea

“For me, the meaning of units as spheres is a [typical example] that can be cut and shaped in various ways.”



# Examples: Contemporary Art



Detail of "Trapped", 2015



Beth Cavener Stichter (1972)  
Lives in Montana, USA

Cavener's sculptures are large and dynamic, evoking fear and anxiety that is distinctly human even though it is presented through animal forms. The body language of these animal forms are metaphors for how humans think, feel, and act.

# Examples: Contemporary Art



Resistance is Futile, 2016



Christopher David White  
Lives in Virginia, USA

“These works explore the relationship between humanity and nature and how both are in a constant state of [change] between growth and decay.”

# Artistic Focus: Element



**FORM** is a three-dimensional object that has height, length, width, and depth.

## **Today's objective:**

1. Demonstrate basic construction of a clay slab with learned sculptural methods
2. Demonstrate basic techniques including scoring

**WA State Visual Arts Standard**  
Combine ideas to generate an innovative idea for art-making.  
(VA:Cr1.1.5)

# Materials

Clay



Slip



Water



Sponge



Scraper



Thickness guide sticks



Wooden modeling tool



Work surface



Roller



Scorer (wired texture tool)





# Tool Safety Guidelines

To avoid injury, please follow these basic guidelines:

- Move the tools **slowly**.
- Avoid touching **the end** of the tools.
- **Watch** where your tools are when they are in your hands.
- Keep the tools flat on the **top of your desk** when not in use.
- **Do not walk** with the tools.

If you handle tools responsibly, you'll get to use them.



# Step 1

- Lay guide sticks on your work surface on either side of your slab of clay.
- Stand up so you have leverage to push and roll out the clay.
- Start at one end of slab and roll out the clay until it is the same thickness as the guide sticks.

**NOTE:**

It is just fine if your slab is not as long as the pattern.



## Step 2

- Lay the pattern towards the bottom of your slab of clay.
- Place your hand on the pattern to hold it still. Move your hand to the spot on the pattern where you are cutting the clay.
- Start at the top of your pattern and slowly pull down with your cutting tool.
- Continue cutting the clay around your pattern.





## Step 3

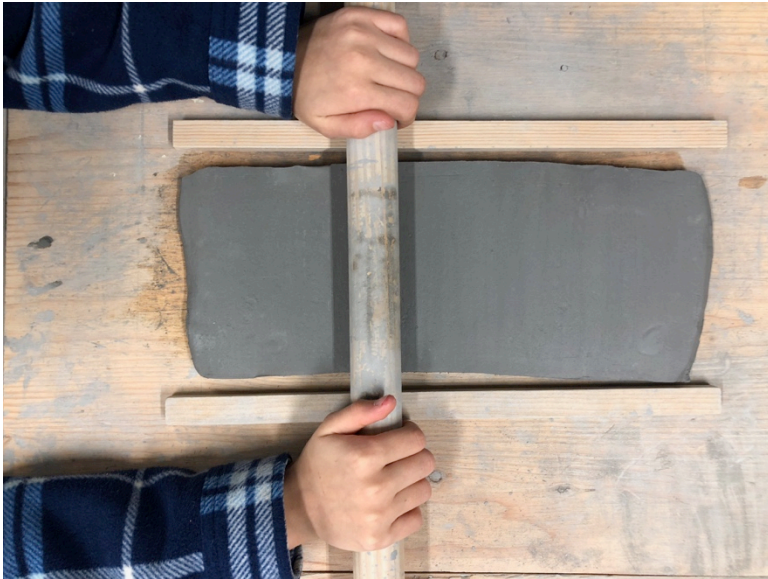
- Remove the extra clay to the side.
- This will be used later in the lesson so please do not squash the clay together.





# Review of Step 1-3

1



2




3



1. Roll out the slab.
2. Cut around pattern.
3. Remove extra clay and set it to the side.

**Remember** to lay the extra clay to the side to use later!

## Step 4

- A slab may have already been prepared for you. 
- Dip your hands in water and spread over both sides of the clay.



### TIP –

You may **score** one side of the slab before adding water using the **4 S's**. This will make the seal stronger as it dries.



# Step 5

- Fold over the slab by matching up the two ends together.
- Watch the “spine of your book”. It will want to crack. Simply add extra water to the side and smooth out.

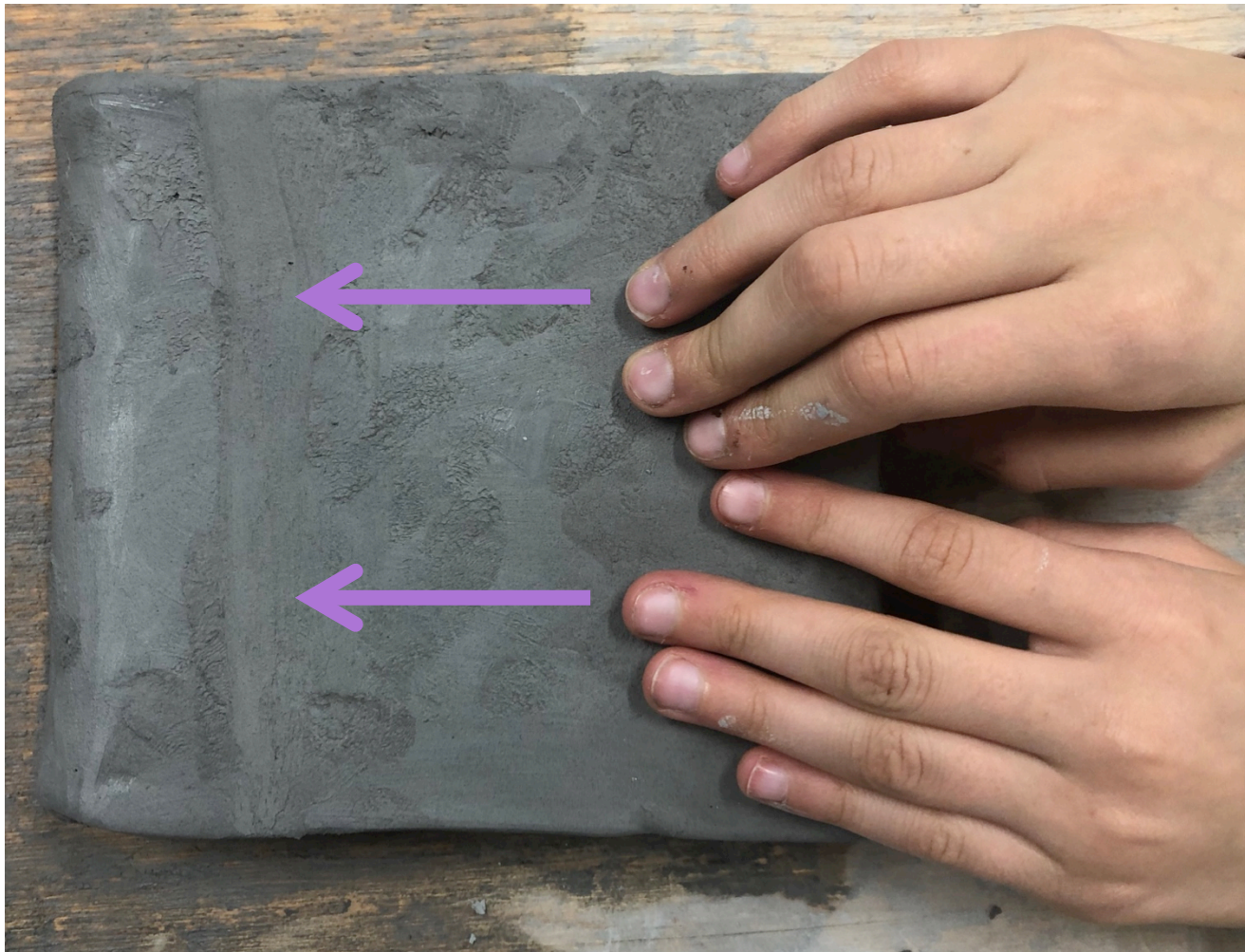
## TIP –

Your fingers and thumb are great tools plus the back of your nails!



## Step 6

- Start at the ends you put together and lightly walk your fingers across the top as you press down so that both sides **STICK** together.



### TIP –

Remember to watch the spine for cracks!

Repair any cracks by smoothing with fingers and adding water.



# Review of Step 4-6

4 minutes

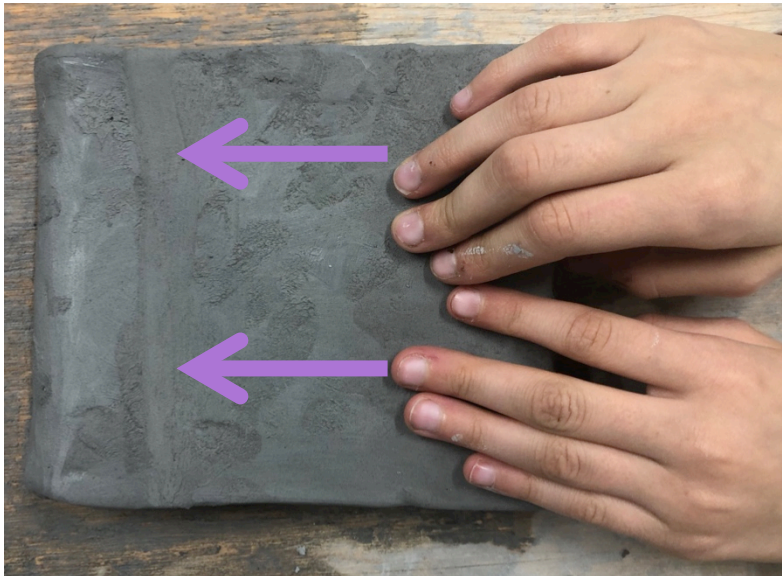
4



5



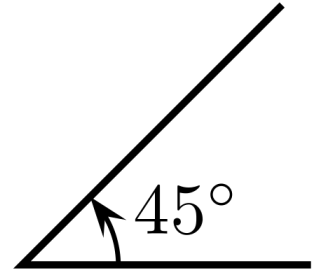
6



4. Water both sides of the slab.
5. Fold over the slab by matching up the two ends.
6. Start at the ends and gently walk your fingers across so the two sides **STICK** together.

# Step 7

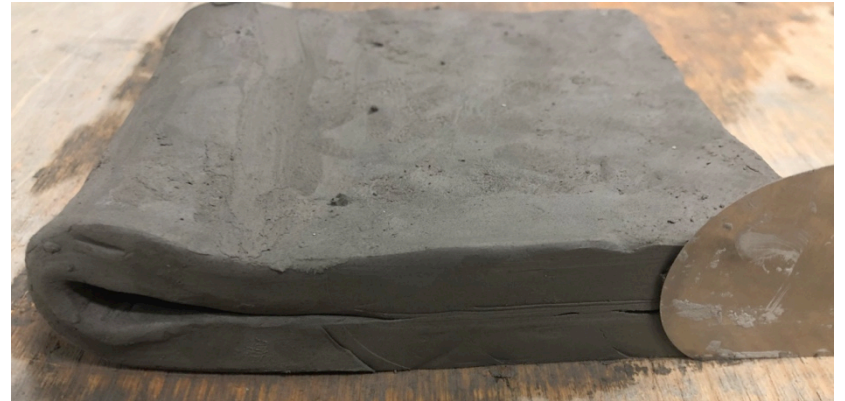
- With your finger, **SMOOTH** the binding edge.
- Next take the scraper tool at 45° angle and smooth out the top of your book.





## Step 8

- To get your sides straight, take the scraper vertically and smooth them.
- If your ends aren't the same length, take a guide stick and place it on the edge. Dip the fettling knife in water. Use the cutting tool to slide along the guide stick to cut off the extra.



## Step 9

- Use the guide stick to make a line about an inch away from the folded edge.
- Take your needle tool and write part of the name of the book on the spine.





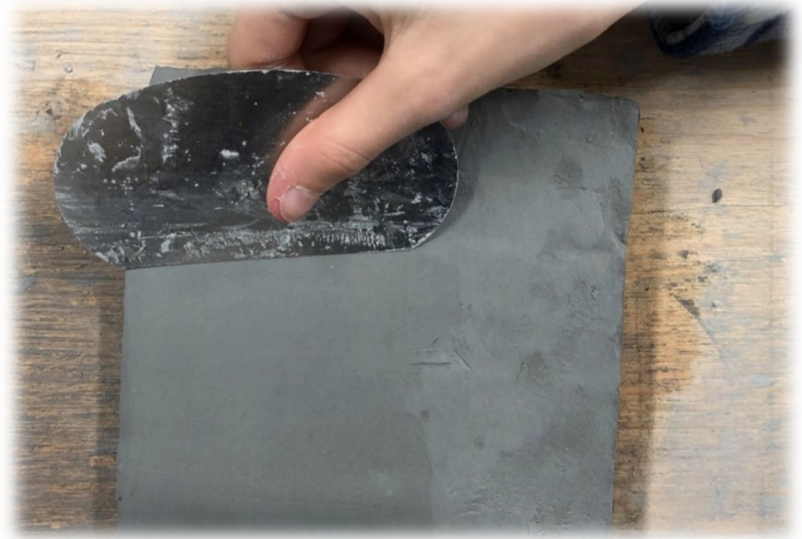
# Review of Step 7-9

5 minutes

7



...



8



9



# Step 10

Time to plan! Choose 3-5 objects to add to the book cover.

- Think about your book and the story line.
- What types of objects were in it?
- What types of scenes?
- Did your characters have some special objects they used?
- Was there an object you can use to show the climax of the book?
- What happened in the beginning, middle and the end?

Eye glasses to  
enter paintings

Oil paintings

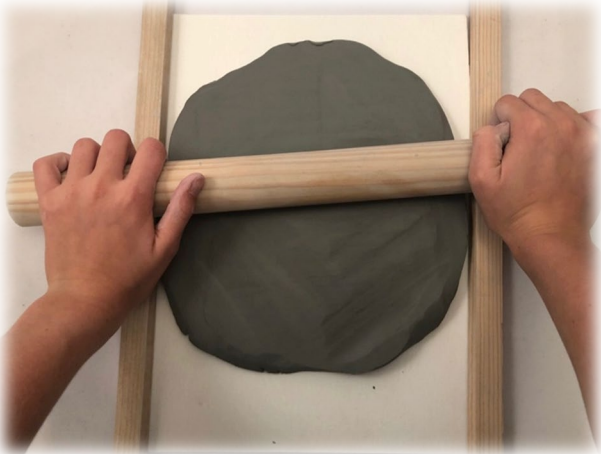


Talking cats to help her  
on her adventures

Candlestick



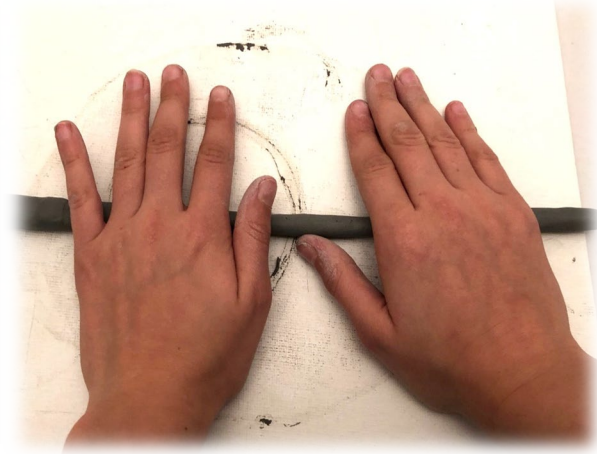
# Review of Techniques/Methods



Slab



Pinch and Pull



Coiling



Slab Construction



Additive



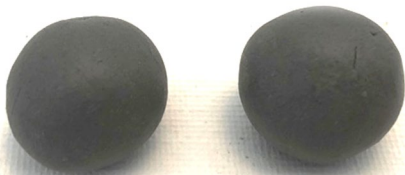
Subtractive

Choose 2 of these techniques and methods to add to your sculpture.

# Step 11

Think about the different shapes you'll need to use to build your objects.

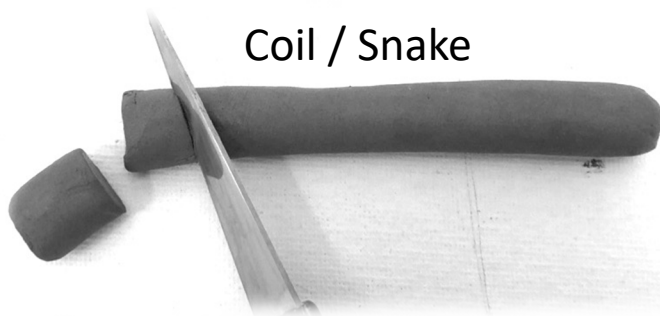
What can you do with a rolled ball?



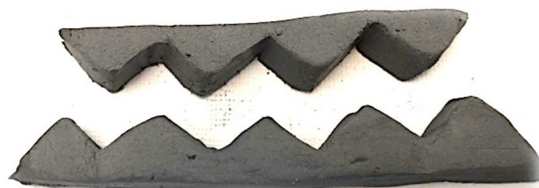
Flatten shapes with the scraper



Coil / Snake



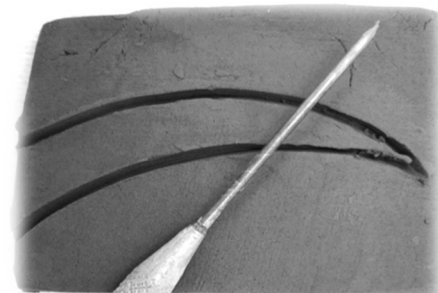
Teeth or dragon part



Slab shapes



Use the needle tool





# Step 12

- Start by adding **3-5** objects to the top of your book by following the **4 S's**.
- Your parts must be:
  - **thicker** than your thumb
  - **shorter** than half of your pinky finger

## THE 4 S's

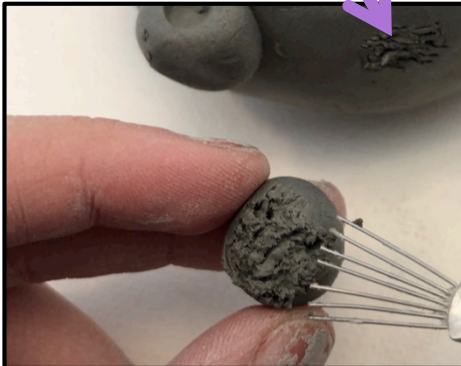
1. Score



2. Slip (water)

3. Stick

4. Smooth



Score both sides!



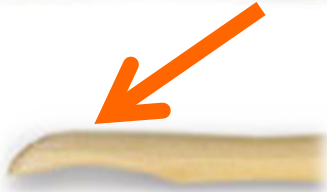
Slip only on 1 side!



# Step 13

- Smooth your cylinder with your **finger** or choose a **tool**: wood modeling tool, metal scraper, wood guide stick, cleaning tool, etc.
- Then with a **slightly wet sponge**, smooth the edges and the whole sculpture.
- With the curved part of your **modeling tool**, you can smooth out the objects on top.

Wooden modeling tool



Scraper



Fingers & Thumbs



## TIP –

Get your sponge wet, then squeeze the extra water out!

Sponge





# Step 14

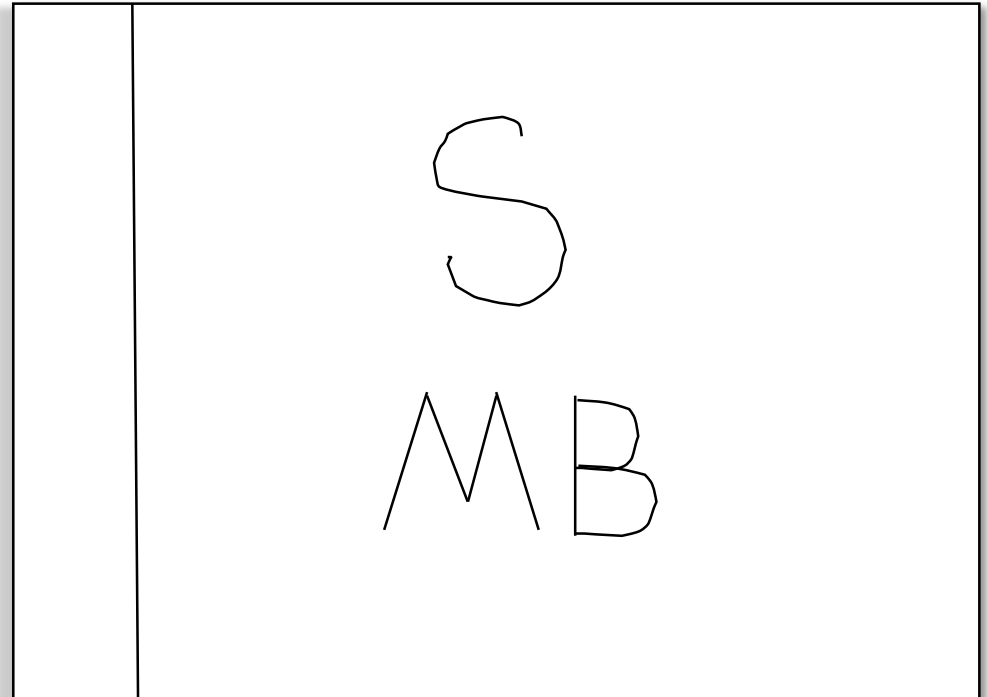
- With the guide stick, make a line along three sides (not the spine).
- With the cleaning tool, clean up the lines of your pages, spine and wording. Brush off the little bits from the tool.
- You can also take a scoring tool and scrap it down the sides of the book to look like pages.



# Add Initials

While you are working, take your needle tool:

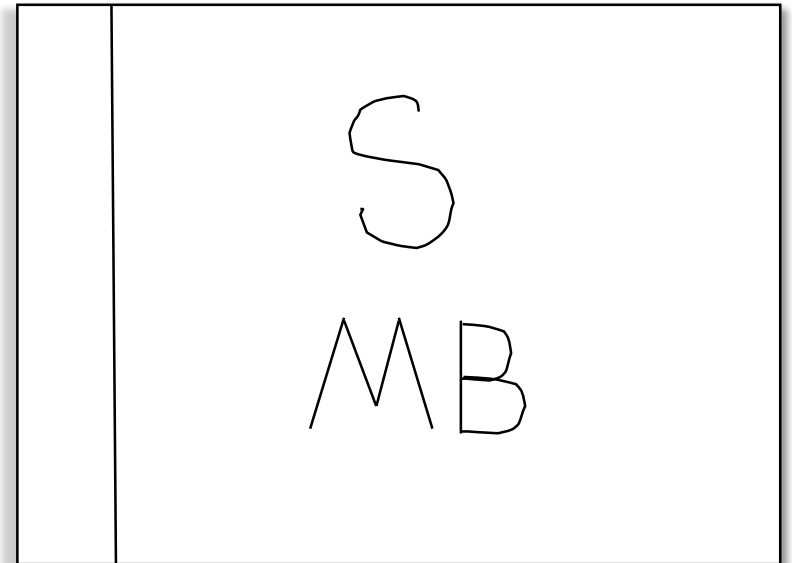
1. Your teacher's last initial.
2. Your initials (the first letter of your first and last names).





# Complete

- Your project is complete!
- Check that your **initials** are on the bottom of your sculpture and put it gently on the **cart**.



# Reflection

- What do you think about building your clay form?
- What technique did we learn about today?
- What did you think about the technique we learned?
- What did you find challenging?
- What was your favorite part of our project today?



# Credits

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pottery#Early\\_pottery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pottery#Early_pottery) History
2. <https://geology.com/world/> World map
3. <https://www.amywallerpottery.com/faience/> Explanation of Egyptian Faience
4. [https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/egfc/hd\\_egfc.htm](https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/egfc/hd_egfc.htm) hippo
5. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beth\\_Cavener\\_Stichter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beth_Cavener_Stichter)
6. <http://yoonsool.com/index.php/project/variation-of-space-series/> Yoon Sol
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