



This sculpture tells a story from an Ancient Greek mythology of a titan, or early god, named Atlas. He was punished by the king of the gods, Zeus, and ordered to stand forever at the western edge of the earth and hold up the sky upon his shoulders. His shoulders thus became the axis around which the night sky revolved.

This sculpture shows Atlas crouched down and straining to hold up a celestial sphere decorated with classical Greek constellations—not a globe, as many people presume. Today, we challenge you to create your own sculpture that can lift a heavy load, just like Atlas!

Chiurazzi Foundry (Italian, founded 1870), *Farnese Atlas*, 20th Century. Bronze, 74 x 35 1/2 x 46 in. Bequest of John Ringling, 1936. SN5115

This work is a modern reproduction of a 2nd-century Roman copy of an even older Hellenistic sculpture. The copy is made of marble and currently in the collection of the National Archaeological Museum of Naples, Italy.

ACTIVITY

MATERIALS:

MODEL MAGIC, CLAY OR PLAY-DOH, BOUNCY BALL

DIFFICULTY LEVEL:

SIMPLE

DIRECTIONS

1. Use Play-Doh, clay, or Model Magic to create a supportive sculpture.
2. Collect small items, such as bouncy balls or small cars.
3. Try to create a sculpture that can support all the different objects you found, like Atlas supporting the celestial globe in the Museum's sculpture.

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE WHAT YOU CREATE!

Click [here](#) to share your masterpiece on our Family Programs Facebook Group!