

Pottery Art

(Grade 1 Print: “Persian Pottery” by Stewart)

Curriculum connection: History and Science

Art Concept: Five different surface qualities: rough/smooth, course/fine, hard/soft, cold/warm, natural/artificial (EALR Grade 1 # 1.1.2, 1.2, 1.3)

Grade: 1 and up

Materials: Clay

Clay boards

Clay tools (rolling pins, plastic knives, clay cutter etc.)

Clay glaze and paintbrushes

Kiln Instructions

Procedures:

1. Have clay cut into pieces and rolled into balls about the size of tennis balls as well as flat pieces measuring approximately 2x2x1 inches prior to class appearance.
2. It is useful to use a cart to transport supplies to the class if one is available because the supplies can be heavy and cumbersome.
3. Explain to the students that they will be making a piece of pottery called the punch pot. It is called this because they will be using their thumbs to “punch” a hole in the middle of the ball of clay to begin forming the pot.

4. Using the clay boards to protect the desks, have students punch a hole in their clay with their thumbs, and then with their fingers, mold the outsides of the pot (leaving their thumb inside the pot to mold the inside).
5. Once students like the shape of their pot, have them set this aside and work on their “lid” to the pot.
6. Students may wish to just flatten even more, the square clay piece and then round out the edges. Students may also use rolling pins to flatten clay and then use plastic knives to round edges.
7. Have students use excess clay to roll a “snake” that measures the diameter of the inside of the pot. This piece should be attached in a circle to the bottom of the lid. This will help anchor lid in place on top of pot.
8. Teachers have a choice whether to paint glaze at this time, or wait for clay to dry. The difference in the outcome may help to decide. When the painting is done right away, the outcome of the glaze will have a swirl type pattern within each color, it will not be evenly colored. This is due to the water still in the clay and glaze. If you prefer a more exact finish, dry pottery first, or even fire pottery in the kiln, paint and then fire again.
9. While drying, completed pottery should be placed in areas out of traffic to dry (left on clay boards atop cubbies or cupboards, out of reach) to prevent breakage.
10. When Glazing, have students paint pot and lid only on areas not touching the table, this will prevent pots sticking to kiln when fired and the glaze melts. Once

glazed, pots and lids must be placed on stands in the kiln. Pots and lids not yet glazed but being fired do not require stands. Therefore, you will be able to fire more pottery at a time than when glazing.

11. Refer to kiln instructions for firing for procedures.