
Kindergarten LWSD Art Docent Project: Leaf Bowl

Element of Art: Clay Form

Objective: Students will demonstrate basic construction of a clay bowl using slab and texture techniques.

Artistic Influence: Japan during the Jomon period (5000-800 BCE). Also included was contemporary artist, Mairi Stone from Ireland.



Materials:

- Clay
- Slip or water
- Pattern/Leaf (make sure it fits in bowl)
- Paper Bowl
- Thickness guide sticks
- Roller (rolling pin or 18in. long dowel, about 1 ½ in thick)
- Skewers or large paper clips
- Fettling knife or cutting tool (plastic or metal knife)
- Work surface (wood board or wax paper)

Definition(s): Refer to slide 2 and 5.

- The Jomon period in Japan was characterized by impressions of rope on the surface of the pottery

Instructions and notes:

1. When prepping the clay, cut the slabs just a little thicker so the students can roll out some of it, but not too much because it is hard for them at this age.
2. Study the pictures in the PowerPoint beforehand so you can bring some of your own insights and questions about them. It is always a good idea to do a sample of the lesson so you have experienced the process of the project yourself.
3. Slide 2&3: Have slide 2 on board while students are transitioning and getting ready to begin art. Then briefly discuss the designs and move on to the history. Explain that in history people made texture in pottery. Briefly explain the artistic element of form, today's objectives and the slab definition.
4. Slide 6: Briefly discuss the contemporary artist using texture in her pieces and maybe share quote.
5. Go through the steps in the PowerPoint slide deck. Each 3-4 steps will be explained on their own slide and will be followed by a review slide. This will help students have a reference to the steps they need to accomplish.
6. Slide 18: Remind students to only dip one finger in the water and smooth.
7. Slide 22: Have students make their critters out of only piece of clay. They should not break up clay and try to attach the pieces since they will just fall off. This technique (scoring) will be taught in 1st grade.
8. Distribute parent information page for students to take home. You may want to print an extra page to post on the teacher's bulletin board or to use for display during a school-wide event (i.e. Gallery Walk, etc.). See following page.
9. Please complete the brief [LWSD Art Docent Program Feedback Survey](#) for this lesson.
10. Thank you for supporting our elementary students' visual arts education.

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The goal of this Kindergarten lesson was to create a clay slab bowl using basic slab and texture techniques.



Tiles, Mairi Stone

WA State Visual Arts Standard

Demonstrate safe and proper procedures for using materials, tools, and equipment while making art. (VA:Cr2.2.1)

In this art lesson taught by volunteer art docents, the students first learned about the history of texture of pottery in the Japan during the Jomon period (5000-800 BCE). Students also explored the work of contemporary artist, Mairi Stone from Ireland, who uses these same hand-texture techniques.

The students used clay to make textured leaf bowls focusing on the technique of slab making and adding texture by pressing a leaf into the clay. Students further explored clay texture by adding a small critter to put in their leaf bowl as and added textural element.

There are numerous ways to display and use your student's artwork (coin bowl, jewelry holder, soap dish, and more).