

Grade 1 – Creature Pinch Pot



Clay Form

What do you see?



Mayan Clay Vessel, 10,000 BC – 1,500 AD

Region – Mexico & Central America

- Mayan people lived in Mexico and parts of Central America.
- The Mayan culture thrived between 10,000 BC until about 1,500 AD.
- Their ceramic pots were different shapes, colors, and sizes.
- The pots they used for everyday storage were unpainted or simple.
- The Mayans' most valued pots were finely painted and detailed.



Mayans



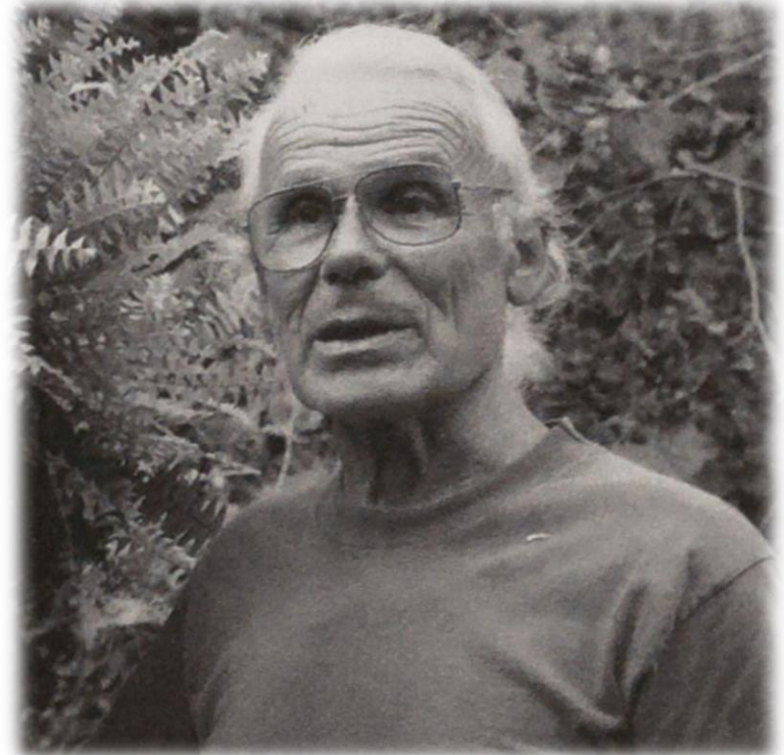
Pinch Pot: Contemporary Art



Clay Artist: Kathy Jeffers
Lives in New York, USA

“My fascination with clay started as a very young girl, playing with mud at the bottom of my driveway.”

Pinch Pot: Contemporary Art



Clay Artist: Paulus Berensohn
Lives in North Carolina, USA

“I could never have gotten into Harvard because I can’t think logically... But I’m rich in imagination... That’s the gift of dyslexia.”

Pinch Pot: Contemporary Art



Clay Artist: Jenny Mendes
Lives in Ohio, USA

“First I create a structure which I paint patterns of emotional experiences...”

Artistic Focus: Clay Form



Seal

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

Today's objective:

1. Use basic scoring technique to create a pinch pot creature.
2. Demonstrate safe use of clay tools.

WA State Visual Arts Standard

Explore uses of materials and tools to create works of art or design. (VA:Cr2.1.1)

Technique – Pinch and Pull

- **Pinching** is a method of controlling clay by pinching and pulling with the fingers to create new forms.

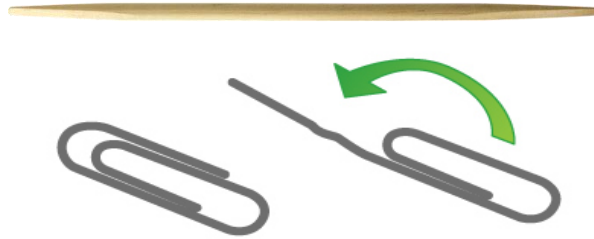


Materials

Clay



Skewer or large paper clip



Scraper



Fettling knife



Work surface



Water



Wooden modeling tool



Scorer (wired texture tool)



Step 1 – The Ball

1



2



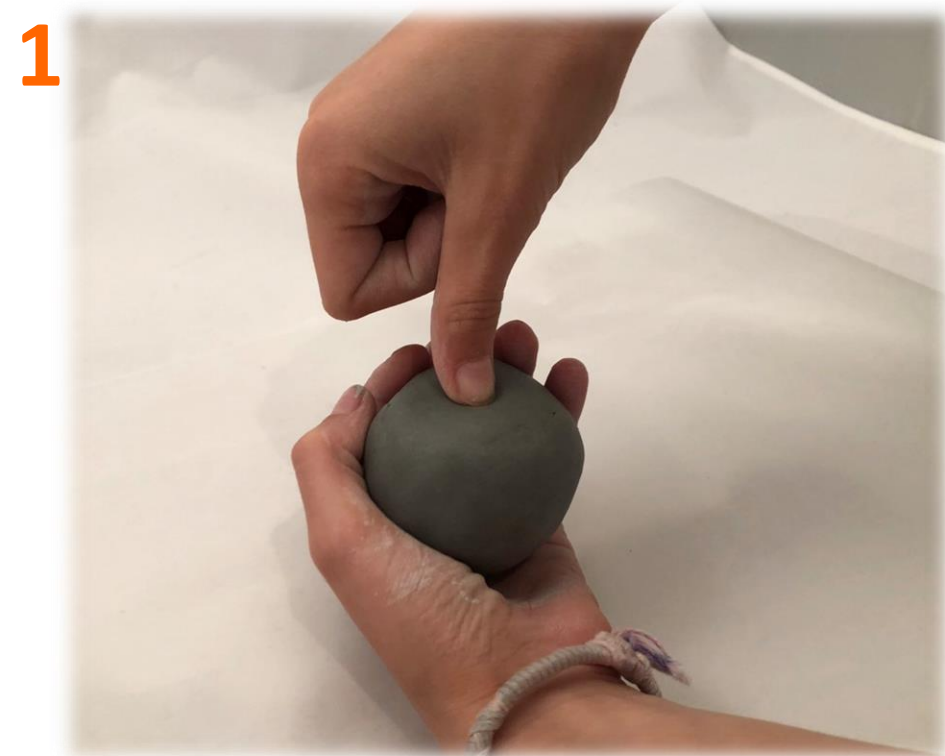
3



4



Step 2 – The Hole



Push your thumb into the middle of the ball up to your first knuckle.

Keep the ball of clay in your cupped hand until you are completely done with the pinch pot in Step 5.

Step 3 – The Pot

1



2



3



1. Pinch the clay.
2. Pull the clay slowly outward while moving the ball in a circle as you turn it in your cupped hand.

Review of Steps 1-3

1



2



3



1. Roll a ball.
2. Push thumb into middle - up to your first knuckle.
3. Pinch the clay.
4. Pull slowly outward while turning the ball in a circle.

Step 4

1

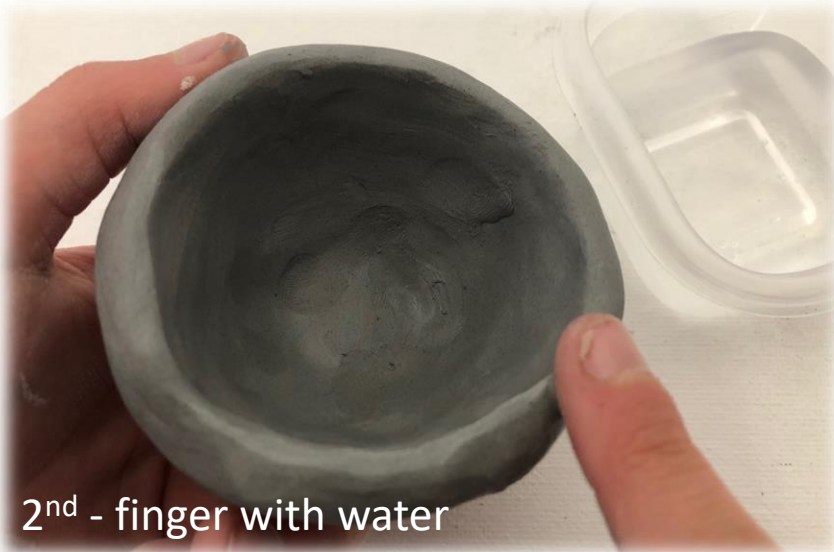


2



1st - fingers & thumbs

3



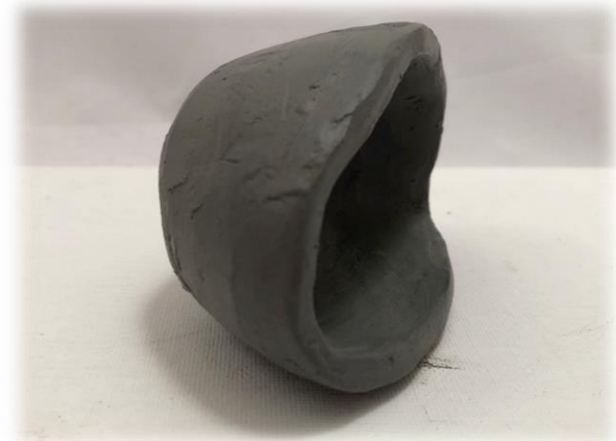
2nd - finger with water

TIPS – Smoothing the Clay

- Use your fingers and thumbs.
- Dip a finger in water and wet the dry areas. Be careful not to use too much.
- Optional - Hold the scraper at an angle, and lightly pull it across the outside of the clay.

Step 5 - Plan Your Creature

- The opening of your pinch pot will become a mouth.
- Choose which way the mouth will face (up, angled, or sideways).



Choose what creature you'll make. Which shapes?



Person

1-3 Eyes
Nose
Teeth
Ears

Tongue
Horns
Spikes
Spots

Tail
Hair
Claws
Wings



Pig



Dog



Frog



Cat



Bear

Tool Safety

To stay safe while working with clay, please follow these rules:

- Move the tools **slowly**.
- Don't touch **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 will get to use them.



Step 6

Choose **5** shapes to add to your pinch pot to make your creature.

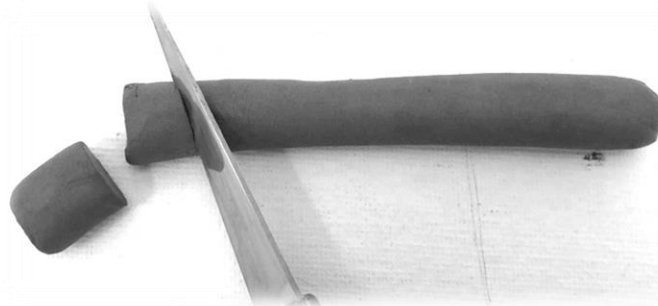
What can you do with a rolled ball?



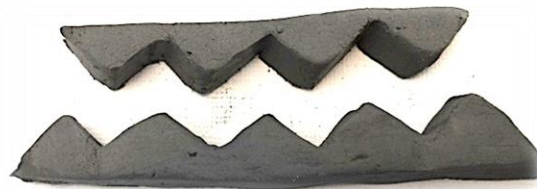
Flatten shapes with the scraper



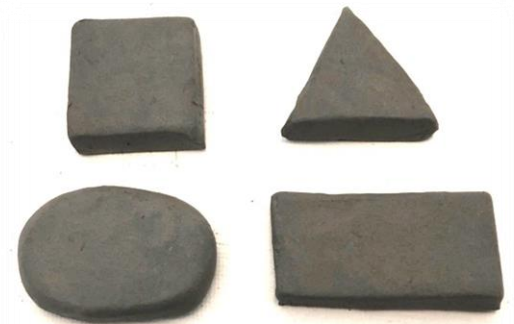
Coil or Snake



Teeth or Spikes



Slab Shapes



Cut-out Shapes



Step 7

Add the 5 shapes to your pinch pot by following the 4 S's.

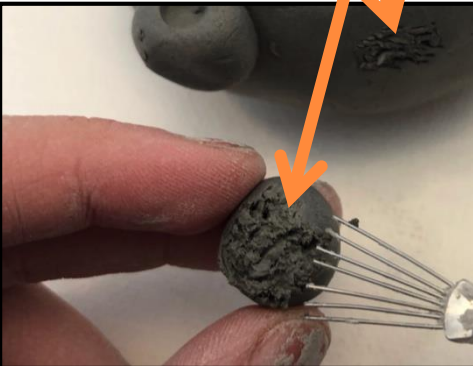
- Your parts must be:
 - thicker than your thumb
 - shorter than half of your pinky finger

TIPS –

- After you use Slip, make sure you can see your scoring marks.
- If not, rescore.

THE 4 S's

1. Score



2. Slip (water)



3. Stick



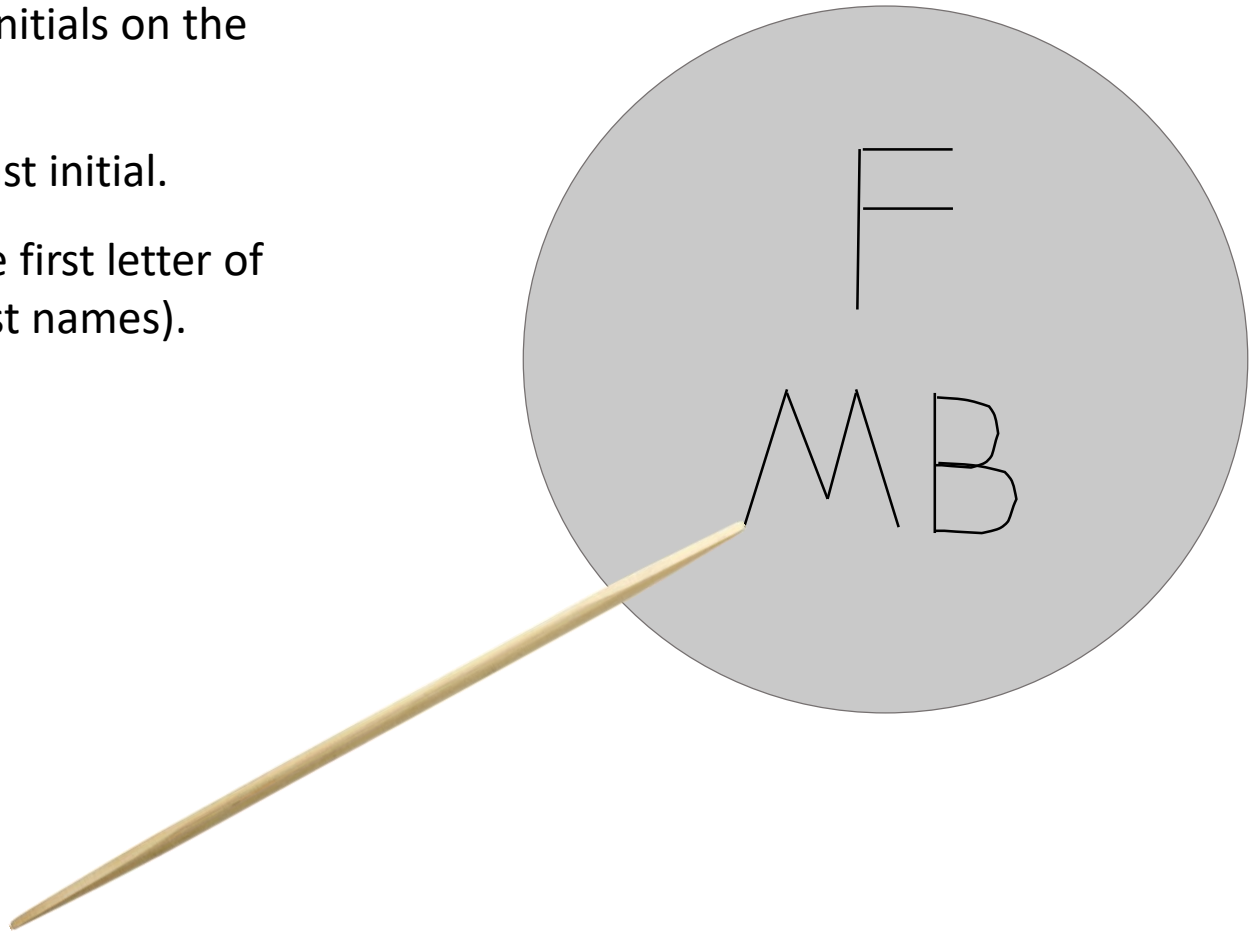
4. Smooth



Add Initials

While you are working, **an adult** will come by and write initials on the bottom of your pot:

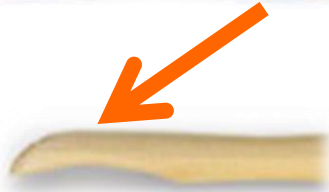
1. Your teacher's last initial.
2. Your initials (the first letter of your first and last names).



Step 8 – Smooth Creature

- Smooth your pot with your **finger** or choose a **tool**: wooden modeling tool, scraper, etc.
- With the curved part of your **modeling tool**, smooth the inside.
- At the end, dip one finger in water to smooth the edges and the whole pot.

Wooden Modeling Tool



Scraper



Water



Fingers & Thumbs



Hold the scraper at an angle to smooth pot.

Complete

Your project is complete!

- Check that your **initials** are still on the bottom of your pot.
- Raise your hand to tell the teacher you are done.



Reflection

- What do you think about building a 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 History
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maya_ceramics
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesoamerican_chronology#Archaic_Era
4. <http://www.ipernity.com/doc/laurieannie/24988467>
5. <https://geology.com/world/> World map
6. <https://kathyjeffersstudio.com>
7. <http://blog.nceca.net/remembering-paulus-berensohn-1933-2017>
8. <http://www.jennymendes.com/Photo-Gallery.html>
9. Original LWSD sample, used with permission.