
1st Grade LWSD Art Docent Project: Creature Pinch Pot

Element of Art: Clay Form

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

Artistic Influence: The Mayan people in Mexico and parts of Central America (10,000 BC-1,500 AD). The students also learned about contemporary artists: Kathy Jeffers (New York, USA), Paulus Berensohn (North Carolina, USA) and Jenny Mendes (Ohio, USA).



Materials:

- Clay
- Slip or water
- Wooden modeling tool
- Roller (rolling pin or 6in. long dowel, about 1 in thick)
- Scraper (substitute a gift card)
- Skewers or large paper clips
- Scorer (feather tool or fork)
- Fettling knife or cutting tool (plastic or metal knife)
- Work surface (wood board or wax paper)

Definition(s): see definitions on slides 7 & 8.

Instructions and notes:

1. 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.
2. 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 pots from pinching and pulling a ball of clay.
3. Slides 4-6: Briefly discuss contemporary artists using the pinch pots and maybe share a quote.
4. Slide 7&8: Briefly explain the artistic element of form, today's objectives and the pinch pot definition.
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. Remind students not to use too much water or it will become too wet for them to use.
7. Remind students if they do the 4S's, their artwork will not stick together.
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.

LWSD Art Docent Program Project: Creature Pinch Pots

The goal of this 1st grade lesson was to use the basic scoring technique to create a pinch pot creature and to demonstrate safe use of clay tools.



Paul Berensohn



Jenny Mendes

WA State Visual Arts Standard

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

In this art lesson taught by volunteer art docents, the students first learned about the history of pinch pottery from the Mayan people in Mexico and parts of Central America (10,000 BC-1,500 AD). Students also explored the works of contemporary artists who use these same hand-building techniques: Kathy Jeffers (New York, USA), Paulus Berensohn (North Carolina, USA) and Jenny Mendes (Ohio, USA).

The students used clay to make pinch pots focusing on the technique of pinching and pulling. They created creature pinch pots and transformed the openings of the pots into gaping mouths.

There are numerous ways to display and use your student's artwork (coin bowl, candy dish, or a holder for various treasures).