

2nd Grade LWSD Art Docent Project: Coil Pots

Element of Art: Clay Form

Objective: Demonstrate basic construction of a coil pot and basic scoring technique

Artistic Influences: Lady Kwali, Claire Woolard, and Janneke Bruines

Materials:

- Clay
- ½-inch Thickness guide sticks
- Roller
- Wooden modeling tool
- Work surface
- Water
- Scorer (wired texture tool)
- fettling knife (Skewers or large paper clips)
- Pattern – Circle 3 ¼-½ circumference
- Scraper



Definition(s): Refer to slides

- **Scoring** – scratching the edges of clay before joining them together.
- **Slip** – water and clay mix that is used to join clay pieces and for surface decoration.
- **Coiling** is a method of forming pottery from rolls of clay.

Instructions and notes:

1. Study the ceramics 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: Have slide 2 on board while students are transitioning and getting ready to begin art. Briefly discuss the designs
3. Slide 3: Explain that in history people made bowls from coils. Make sure you have read this slide ahead of time so you can quickly explain the information to the students.
4. Slide 4-6: Briefly discuss contemporary artists using coils and maybe share a quote.
5. Slide 7&8: Briefly explain the artistic element of form, today's objectives and coiling definition.
6. Slides 11-13: To save time, have the bases already cut out for the students. This would usually take 20+ extra minutes including prep, roll and collection of tools. See patterns on the last page of this document.
7. Go through the rest of the steps in the PowerPoint slide deck. A few steps will be explained on their own slide and will be followed by a review slide. Pause on the review slides to help students have a reference while they accomplish the required steps.
8. It is helpful to carry around a spray bottle with water. If the clay coils sit too long and/or start to crack when bent, they are too dry. Lightly spray the coils with water after the students roll them. Tell the students that "The clay gets thirsty" just sitting there (the board, air and their hands will deplete the water in the clay).
9. Remind students if they do the 4S's, their clay parts will stick together. You may demonstrate if you'd like.
10. Slide 19: Remind students not to use too much water or it will become too wet for them to build! Tell them to put one finger in the water and get a drop. Touch it to the scored part of the clay until there's no more water on their fingertips then dip the finger in again to get another drop.
11. Slide 22: Always smooth with your finger first and use a drop of water if needed.
12. Slide 25-26: Students will only add decorative elements to the top coil.
13. Distribute parent information page for students to take home when you give out the final project. 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, Showcase, etc.). See following page.
14. Please complete the brief [LWSD Art Docent Program Feedback Survey](#) for this lesson.
15. Thank you for supporting our elementary students' visual arts education.

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The goal of this 2nd grade lesson was to create a pot by using the coiling and scoring techniques.



Handbuilt pot with incised figures
Lady Kwali



Hand Coil Pot
Claire Woolard, 2009



On The Piano
Janneke Bruines

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, students learned that form is a three-dimensional object that has height, length, width, and depth.

The students used clay to learn the basic techniques of coiling and scoring, focusing on building a clay pot.

The inspirations for this project were Lady Kwali (Nigeria, Africa), Claire Woolard (Georgia, USA), and Janneke Bruines (Netherlands, Europe). These artists have used basic hand-building and coiling techniques that formed sculptures and vessels.

Suggested pattern material -

Printed on tagboard or cut from plastic (i.e. recycled lids, etc.).

Basic Size:

- 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter
- 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch circumference