
5th Grade LWSD Art Docent Project: Culminating Sculpture

Element of Art: Clay Form

Objective: To demonstrate basic techniques including scoring and construction of a clay slab with learned sculptural methods.

Artistic Influence: Northern Africa specifically Egypt area. Students also learn about contemporary artists: Sol Yoon (South Korea), Beth Cavener Stichter (MT, USA) and Christopher David White (VI, USA).

Materials:

- ¼ inch thickness guide sticks
- Clay (cut the block lengthwise, slabs should be a little thicker than ¼ inch)
- Roller
- Scoring tool
- Scraper
- Slip or Water
- Sponge
- Wooden modeling tool
- Work surface



Definition(s): (see definitions on last page)

- **Scoring** – scratching the edges of clay before joining them together. Refer to slide 25.
- **Slip** – water and clay mix that is used to join clay pieces and for surface decoration. Refer to slide 25.

Instructions and notes:

1. The day before, have the teacher tell the students that they'll be creating a clay sculpture based on a novel they've read and to think of 3 objects they can make that represent the book.
2. Study the paintings 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: Have this slide up while students are transitioning and getting ready to begin art.
4. Slide 7: Briefly explain the artistic element of **form**.
5. Go through the steps in the PowerPoint slide deck.
6. Slide 10-12: If you have a portion slicer or guide sticks for measuring the clay block then you can skip steps 1-3 without a pattern.
7. Slide 15: The students need to make sure they keep adding water and smoothing out any cracks that form as they fold the slab over.
8. Slide 20: Students will not be able to write the full name of the novel. Have them pick just one or two words from the title.
9. Slide 23: Some students need to be shown some of the techniques & processes again especially the pinch pot and slab box construction.
10. Distribute parent information page for students to take home. You may want to print the information, if displaying the projects. See following page.
11. Please complete the brief [LWSD Art Docent Program Feedback Survey](#) for this lesson.
12. Thank you for supporting our elementary students' visual arts education.

LWSD Art Docent Program Project: Culminating Sculpture

The goal of this 5th grade lesson was to demonstrate basic techniques including scoring and construction of a clay slab with learned sculptural methods.



Hippopotamus ("William"), 1961-1878 B.C.



Space Series, Yoon



Resistance is Futile, White

WA State Visual Arts Standard

Combine ideas to generate an innovative idea for art-making. (VA:Cr1.1.5)

In this art lesson taught by volunteer art docents, students first learned about the history of northern Africa specifically Egypt. They specifically learned about Egyptian faience (fay-on-s), which is a non-clay-based ceramic made up of crushed quartz and sand. Students explored sculptural examples of "form," three-dimensional objects that have height, length, width, and depth.

The students used clay to make ceramic sculptures focusing on the technique of scoring to adhere two pieces of clay together. They used a variety of clay techniques and processes to craft this culminating fifth grade project. The students created a sculpture of a book and added objects that represented parts of a novel they had read.