

Curiosity

Corner

Treasures from the
FCS Archives

Welcome to **Treasures from the FCS Archives**, a repository of resources for teachers and history enthusiasts! Every month, we are sharing photos, artifacts, documents and other treasures for you to review, discuss and discover. We encourage you to click the links, scan the photos and dig deeper into these treasures, all of which can be found in the Fulton County Schools Archives. Enjoy!

CHEROKEE POTTERY: YESTERDAY AND TODAY



Cherokee Pottery, Teaching Museum South 2015.9.49-50



For more information and resources or to connect with staff at the **FCS Archives**, contact us at archives@fultonschools.org

TEACHING MUSEUM
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Are the Cherokees still around today? Yes; however, as educators we tend to focus on the lives of the Cherokees before European contact and then finish the unit with the loss of life, land, and possessions during the [Trail of Tears](#). This approach leaves students without a clear understanding of the ways Cherokee culture continues to evolve as tribal members respond to and shape the world around them.

Just like other American citizens, members of today's Cherokee tribes have diverse interest and occupations. Some members of the Cherokee tribes are working to preserve traditional artforms like basketmaking, wood carving, and pottery. In this edition of *Curiosity Corner*, we are going to examine the evolution of [Cherokee pottery](#) by featuring two clay pots located at the Teaching Museum South, which also houses other examples of traditional and [contemporary Cherokee crafts and tools](#). This modern pottery provides us insights into how Cherokee artists, like [Mary Thompson](#) honor the traditions of their ancestors while adding their own unique take on this artform.

The Cherokee trace the start of their pottery tradition to the [Didanisigi](#), which is a Cherokee word for a type of wasp that builds its nest from mud. Over the centuries their pottery has taken on many different styles and techniques as artists learn from each other. This piece of pottery provides a window into the Cherokee culture, its history and its continuing evolution in contemporary times.

Click here for a [timeline](#) of important events in Cherokee History. Additional information can be found at the [Museum of the Cherokee Indian](#).

Curiosity in the Classroom: A Closer Look

Click on the image above for a higher resolution jpeg. Ask students to carefully and quietly study the image.

Ask students:

- What do you see?
- What techniques were used to make this pottery?
- Who might have made this pottery?
- What can you learn about the artist and/or Cherokee culture from this pottery?

After prompting student observations and curiosity, guide students through discovering answers to their questions through the text on this main page and links.

Extend the Analysis: Compare this contemporary Cherokee pottery with the 3D scans of ancient Cherokee pottery from UWG's Waring Archaeological Lab.



[Stamped Pottery](#)

[Pinch Pot](#)

Lesson Ideas & Links:

[Elementary School Connections](#)

[Related Primary Sources](#)

[Middle School Connections](#)

[Ask the Teaching Museum](#)

[High School Connections](#)

[Additional Online Resources](#)

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