

Clay Vessels

Grade Level: 8th

Project Description: Students will use a variety of pottery techniques to create clay vessels that display artistic representations of the elements of art and principles of design.

Rationale:

The elements of art can be defined as the basic visual components of all natural and human-made objects. Shape, space, form, color, line, and texture are all art elements. Principles of design are defined as relationships created by art elements working together in a composition. Examples of design principles are contrast, opposition, variety, transition, gradation, symmetry, balance, proportion, rhythm, movement, repetition, pattern, emphasis, dominance, center of interest, focal point, harmony, and unity. It is important for students to learn about and understand the art elements and design principles because they are art's visual language used to understand, produce, and evaluate art.

In this project, students will also learn about a variety of pottery techniques in order to work towards an understanding of the clay medium. Pottery has been an essential component of societies' technology throughout history. From transporting water to containing past loved ones, humans have relied on potters for thousands of years. Pottery, however, is not only functional, but often a work of art in its own right. By dealing with a medium in a way uncommon from its traditional use, students gain a new perspective on the possibilities of that medium. Clay, used as a hand-building medium, will allow for creative exploration and growth in originality and imagination. This project will allow students to work towards an understanding of the elements and principles as well as the clay medium, while simultaneously creating unique and elaborate art.

Enduring Understanding: Artists and designers experiment with forms, structures, materials, concepts, media, and art-making approaches.

Essential Questions:

- Why are the elements and principles important in art?
- How can the elements and principles be portrayed using clay?
- How can different clay techniques be used when making art?

Goals: *Students will:*

- Work towards an understanding of the properties and techniques of the clay medium
- Work towards an understanding of the elements of art
- Work towards an understanding of the principles of design

Objectives: *Students will:*



- Create a clay vessel utilizing one of the three hand-building techniques and that also has either additive or subtractive clay in order to demonstrate understanding of the clay medium.
- Portray at least one element on their clay vessels in order to demonstrate their understanding of the elements of art.
- Portray at least one principle on their clay vessels in order to demonstrate understanding of the principles of design.
- Create artist statements that explain how they used different pottery techniques to create their vessels and portray their elements and principles in order to demonstrate their understanding of the clay medium and elements of art and principles of design.

Procedure:

1. Students will watch and participate in clay vessels and elements and principles presentation.
2. Students will choose at least one element and one principle to portray in their work.
3. Students will begin designing ideas for their clay vessels.
4. Students will watch and participate in demonstration on different pottery techniques.
5. Once they have completed four design ideas, students will begin working on their clay vessels.
6. Once they have finished their clay vessels, students will fill out an assessment rubric and create an artist statement that tests their knowledge of the project.

Motivations:

- PowerPoint presentation on Clay vessels and elements and principles
- Demonstration on pottery techniques
- Example(s) of project

Vocabulary: Elements of art, principles of design, clay, slab building, pinch pot, coiling, attaching, slip, score, leather hard, bone dry, bisque, fire, bisque fire, glaze firing, kiln, needle tool, wire tools, ribs, loop tools, ribbon tools, wooden modeling tools, sponges, brushes.

Materials: Design sheets, pencils, clay, canvas, needle tools, wire tools, ribs, loop tools, ribbon tools, wooden modeling tools, sponges, brushes.

Assessment:

Formative: *Observing and Interviewing:* Students will be observed and interviewed throughout their artistic processes in order to check for learning.

Summative: *Assessment Rubric:* Students will fill out an assessment rubric that checks for lesson requirements (use of pottery techniques and depiction of elements and principles) as well as checks for learning.

Artist Statement: Students will write an artist statement that explains how they used the different pottery techniques to create their clay vessel and portray their elements and principles.

National Core Arts Standards:

Creating: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by applying visual organization to design and produce a work of art, design, or media that clearly communicates information or ideas.