

LESSON PLAN: Pottery

By Wendy Ping, May 2013

Learn about functional vessels and create your own clay pinch pot.

Key Questions/Ideas

- What is a vessel?
- What does functional mean?
- How can objects be functional and interesting at the same time?
- What are some examples of mass-produced functional pottery and handmade one-of-a-kind pottery? How are they similar? How are they different?



Objective- Introduce students to different types of functional pottery and talk about how each vessel was created. Give examples (cups, plates, bowls, vase, pitcher, jug) and discuss their similarities and differences. Review vocabulary regarding typical parts of a vessel.

Tour the art on campus, looking for functional vessels built in a variety of methods.

Introduction/Studio- Instructor will demonstrate the process of creating a vessel by hand building with clay. Create a base using the pinch method. Demonstrate how to build the walls of the vessel in all three methods: coil, slab, and pinch. Show how to score and add water to join parts. Ask students:

- How will your vessel be useful?
- How can you create positive and negative space while keeping the integrity of the vessel?
- How could you use detail to make the pottery more interesting?

Students will each create a vessel incorporating design considerations.

Vocabulary

Functional	Texture	Positive Space
Vessel	Decorative	Negative Space score
Hand-building	Pinch	Slip casting
Slab	Coil	Foot / base neck, lip

Materials

Air dry clay (1 lb per student)
 rolling pins (1 per student)
 texture plates
 wax paper to cover table surface
 Cardboard/Foam core, one small square each to transport home

Assessment

Review vocabulary from the gallery tour. Share finished artwork. Compare and contrast work. Which form of hand building was the most challenging for you? Easiest? Why?

Tour Artwork Images:



Betty Woodman (American, b. 1930)
Persian Pillow Pitcher #6, 1981
Earthenware and glaze
Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2010.59



Robert Tenorio (American Indian, Santo Domingo Pueblo, b. 1950)

Pictorial Dough Bowl, 2001

Ceramic

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2006.40



Lidya Buzio (Uruguayan, b. 1948 – d. 2014)

Vase, 1986

Burnished earthenware

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art



Mark Errol (American, b. 1977)

Untitled, 2010

Clay and underglazes

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2010.79

Gift of Marti and Tony Oppenheimer and the Oppenheimer Brothers Foundation



Malcolm Mobutu Smith (American, b. 1969)

Taggist Bottle, 2008

Handbuilt stoneware

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art