

Title of Lesson:	Animal Pinch Pot: Day 1
Teacher:	Diamond Jackson and Hannah Beshey
School:	Urbana Middle School
Grade Level[s]:	7th Grade
Date to be Taught:	October 3rd, 8th, and 10th

Big Idea that drives Lesson/Unit: The purpose of this lesson is for students to learn various skills when working with clay. Not only will students be able to learn new techniques– such as wedging, slip and score, and the pinching method– but also gain insight into each skills purpose and importance in clay sculpting. Likewise, students will learn new vocabulary associated with clay. Over the course of 3 days, students will create an animal-themed pinch pot from clay, using the latest techniques they have learned from the teachers.

Fine Arts Goals/Objectives:

- VA: Cr 2.1.7a
 - Demonstrate persistence in developing skills with various materials, methods, and approaches in creating works of art or design.
- VA: Cr 2.2.6a
 - Explain the environmental implications of conservation, care, and clean-up of art materials, tools, and equipment.
- VA: Cr 2.3.7
 - Apply visual organizational strategies to design and produce a work of art, design, or media that clearly communicates information or ideas.

Vocabulary Acquisition:

- Clay – a soft material that comes from the Earth that, when fired, becomes solid
- Wedge – a way of removing air from the clay by kneading and slamming it; prepares the clay for sculpting
- Score – scratching into the clay to prepare it for slip, and after that, attaching it to another piece of clay
- Slip –clay that has been watered down into a slurry, which can then be used as a glue to join pieces together.
- Pinch Method – a method of building the clay into a shape, by rolling the clay into a ball, and then pinching it to gradually build up walls.
- Rib – a flat tool that can be used to smooth and sculpt the clay
- Kiln – a type of oven that clay is placed into to fire it into a solid; kilns reach extremely high temperatures to fire the clay

Essential Questions:

- How do artists work?
- How do artists and designers determine whether a particular direction in their work is effective?
- How do artists and designers learn from trial and error?
- How do artists and designers care for and maintain materials, tools, and equipment?
- Why is it important for safety and health to understand and follow correct procedures in handling materials, tools, and equipment?
- What responsibilities come with the freedom to create?

Key Artistic Concepts:

- Students will create a pinch pot sculpture of an animal of their choice, with the goal being to pick an animal that represents something meaningful to them or is an animal that they personally feel connected to or like
 - Provided that there is time, students will have the option to carve designs and attach objects to the pot, whether that be additional details (like ears, noses, or arms/wings), or drawing into the clay to add texture and depth.
- Students will learn essential skills for working with clay, such as wedging, slip and score, and the pinch method; this will be basic knowledge that they can use for future clay projects. Likewise, students will learn vocabulary and tips for working with clay, such as learning about the reasons *why* people wedge their clay, the benefits of using tools like a rib to smooth out a sculpture, as well as why a clay object is put in a kiln.

Artmaking Materials Needed:

- Student materials
 - 14 pieces of Clay
 - 14 Clay mats
 - 7 Spray bottles
 - 14 Aprons
 - 7 Clay cutters
 - 14 Trimming tools
 - 14 Ribs and scrapers
 - 28 Gloves
- Teacher materials
 - Teacher example
 - Slideshow
 - https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/13N4OZyn5UOhkOzCeNyFZBzoObzFE2_bko7H9yO39ZA/edit

Contemporary/Historical/Multicultural/Popular/Literature Art exemplars:

- Metropolitan Museum of Art, Lime Pot in the Shape of Cat, 11th-2th Century, Thailand
 - <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/73809>
- Dayton Art Institute, Roy Lichtenstein Inspired Pinch Pot
 - <https://www.daytonartinstitute.org/tiny-thursdays-pop-art-pinch-pot/>
- Julia Sanderl, Pinch Pots
 - <https://juliasanderl.com/2011/04/27/pinch-pots/roy>
- Gail Peroddy, Student Examples, 2015
 - <https://becker-intermediate-art.weebly.com/school-blog/clay-pinch-pot-animals>

Procedures:

- DISCUSSION: (10 minutes)
 - Schedule
 - Introduction of Project
 - Demonstration of Wedging
 - Work Time to Wedge Clay
 - Demonstration of Pinching
 - Work Time
 - Clean Up and Closure

- o Introduction of Project
 - Show teacher-made exemplars
 - Teachers show an animal pinch pot created with clay, and provide a general overview of how they went about creating it, to give students an idea of the steps and techniques they will use when forming their sculptures:
 - o Clay was “wedged” to prepare it
 - Teachers will briefly explain what wedging is, and explain that students will learn more about it in a moment.
 - o Clay was rolled into a sphere and, using the “pinched method,” it was formed into a bowl with tall sides.
 - o Additional details, such as beaks, wings, eyes, or other features were then attached to the pinch pot using a technique called “slip and score”
 - o Clay was then carved into to add other fine details
 - o Clay was put into the “kiln” and fired
 - Show Historical/Multicultural exemplars
 - Metropolitan Museum of Art, Lime Pot in the Shape of Cat, 11th-2th Century, Thailand
 - o A historical piece of pottery in the shape of an animal
 - Dayton Art Institute, Roy Lichtenstein Inspired Pinch Pot
 - o Pinch pots inspired by an artist within the art historical canon
 - Julia Sanderl, Pinch Pots
 - o Pinch pots created by a contemporary artist
 - Gail Peroddy, Student Examples, 2015
 - o Pinch pots created by middle school students
- DEMONSTRATION ONE: Wedging (3 minutes)
 - o Wedging
 - Teachers will show students how to prepare and wedge the clay, emphasizing that:
 - Wedging is done to prevent air bubbles in the clay, which would cause the sculpture to potentially break in the kiln
 - Wedging makes the clay more workable
 - Wedging maintains moisture throughout the clay
 - After seeing the teachers demonstrate how to begin wedging and wedge the clay safely, students will begin wedging their clay as the teachers review the reasons for wedging it.
- DESIGN/WORK SESSION: (10 minutes)
 - o Students will wedge their clay during this portion of the lesson
- DEMONSTRATION TWO: Forming (3 minutes)
 - Teachers will show students how to use the pinching method to form the clay into a bowl-shape
 - Teachers will show how students can slowly pinch the clay into a bowl shape, and then form the walls of the bowl upwards to create a cylinder shape.
 - Teachers will explain that this will be the base for their sculpture
 - Teachers will motivate the students to think first about how wide the cylinder should be to match what type of animal they want to make

- Teachers will emphasize how students should take their time to pinch the clay– avoid pinching the clay too hard, avoid making the walls too thin– and show how thick to leave the clay to make their sculpture stable when attaching pieces
 - Teachers will also show how students can use water to help smooth cracks that form during this process, also showing how much water to use to avoid the clay becoming difficult to work with
- DESIGN/WORK SESSION: (10 minutes)
 - Students will spend this time beginning to pinch the clay into the cylinder base.
- CLEAN UP: (7 minutes)
 - o Students will clean up their table spaces by putting their clay sculptures in the kiln room, and then spraying the tables with water and wiping them down.
 - o Students will rinse their hands of clay in a basin and then wash their hands with soap and water in the sink.
- CLOSURE: (3 minute)
 - o Teachers will ask students what new techniques and/or vocabulary they learned about clay during this lesson.
 - o Teachers will remind students that during the next lesson, they will create another part of their sculpture, and also learn about slip and score in order to attach this piece to the base of the sculpture that they created today.