Clay and Culture in Ohio
Educator Guide

Enriching the lives of children and promoting creative learning by uniting arts and education

About the Program

With the guidance of teaching artist George Woideck, students learn the importance of pottery in these cultures and view and handle examples of Native American and settler pottery. Students discuss the differences between the pieces and between the two cultures that produced them. Students then create and decorate, using patterns, their own Native American style bowl from natural clay. They discuss the need for applying high temperatures to make the pottery durable and usable. The pots are then fired and returned to the students for further decoration and use.

Content Standards

Social Studies

Various groups of people have lived in Ohio over time including prehistoric and historic American Indians, migrating settlers and immigrants. Interactions among these groups have resulted in both cooperation and conflict.

The economic development of the United States continues to influence and be influenced by agriculture, industry and natural resources in Ohio.

There are both positive and negative consequences for modifying the environment in Ohio and the United States.

Visual Arts

Recognize that people from various times and cultures create works of art to be looked at, valued and enjoyed.

Connect making art with individual choice and understanding personal cultural identity.

Form and express opinions about artworks and apply critical and creative thinking skills to assess and refine their artworks.

Objectives

1. Experience the tactile nature of clay.
2. Learn the skills to create their own unique clay bowl.
3. Analyze Native American symbols and incorporate them into the decoration of their bowls.
Before the Program

Learn the names of Native American tribes of Ohio.

Review the creation of the Western Reserve of Ohio and the European origins of the people who settled there.

Study the mound building culture of Southern Ohio.

After the Program

Students can decorate their fired clay bowls with color extending the opportunity to work with patterns.

As an additional resource view a DVD provided by the artist of a Native American potter working with traditional techniques in a traditional style of pottery making.

Make a map of Ohio and its Native American tribes. Students can research their possible Native American heritage.

Vocabulary

Clay: A stiff, sticky fine-grained earth, typically yellow, red, or bluish-gray in color and often forming an impermeable layer in the soil

Kiln: A furnace or oven for burning, baking, or drying, especially one for firing pottery.

Pottery: Pots, dishes, and other articles made of earthenware or baked clay. Pottery can be broadly divided into earthenware, porcelain, and stoneware

About George Woideck

George Woideck trained as a painter with time off to tour as a rock musician. He began his full-time career as a ceramic artist in 1975. Since then he has been an artist-in-residence in schools throughout Ohio and Michigan. George was named National Young Audiences Artist of the Year in 2001. He also presents ceramic workshops for the Teacher Resource Center of the Cleveland Museum of Art. His studio work has been displayed in numerous local and national exhibitions. To learn more about George’s work, please visit his web site at www.tileandclayart.com and his blog for educators at tilemosaicandclay.blogspot.com/

Resources

Native Americans Discover the History & Cultures of the First Americans: with 15 Projects Kavin, Kim (Book - 2013)

Native Americans in Ohio

www.wright.edu/studentorgs/nas/resources.html

About the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning

Through a balance of demonstration and audience participation, the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning teaching artist performances and workshops introduce students to an art form, support various curricular areas, and inject excitement and wonder into the school day.