

Duncan Colorworks

Medieval Castle Ceramic Art Lesson Plan



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Medieval Castles - - Ceramic Art Lesson Plan

Grade Level: 9-12

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Introduction:

Castles often evoke thoughts of fantasy worlds or memories of fairy tales. But once upon a time, castles were strongholds of defense and centers for social interaction. During the Dark Ages, Great Britain and other parts of Europe were controlled by a political system called Feudalism. Feudal Lords owned large tracts of land and controlled the peasant farmers who worked that land. In turn, the lord would protect the peasants from invading enemies. The castle became the center of life for the people. Goods were bought and sold there, various forms of entertainment could be found there and the castle became the symbol of how well the people were doing.

Educational Objectives:

This lesson provides opportunities for students to:

- Create a castle using slab techniques for construction and using supports during building.
- Study the Dark Ages and Feudalism.
- Learn about the castles of Europe.
- Learn how castles were developed and how defenses were used.

References:

Medieval Castles of the World

<http://www.medievalcastles.net>

Castles of the World

<http://www.castles.org/>

Castles of Britain

<http://www.castles-of-britain.com/>

Teaching Tips:

- Have students bring in boxes and cardboard tubes prior to class.
- Box size should be limited to a certain size depending upon kiln space and available time to construct the castles.
- Options for the assignment could include a report on castles or re-creating an actual castle in clay.

Duncan Materials:

Cover Coat® Opaque Underglazes:

- 3-4 pints of Cover Coat CC 119 Charcoal
- 1 pint Cover Coat CC 117 Walnut Brown

E-Z Stroke™ Translucent Underglazes:

- 1 pint E-Z 037 Black



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Brushes:

- BR 576- 3/4" Premium Glaze or
- BR 545- 3/4" Flat Translucent
- TL 415 Sponge

Miscellaneous Materials:

- Clay for each student (5-10 lbs. depending upon size of project)
- Boxes to build the castles around and cardboard tubes for towers
- A slabroller or rolling pins with boards to roll slabs of even thickness
- Styrofoam for texturing
- Wooden Modeling tools
- Fettling knives for cutting slabs & details
- Newspaper for lining boxes

Step-by-Step:

1. Line the outside of the cardboard box with newspaper so that the clay won't stick to the box.
2. Roll out slabs to an even thickness of about 3/8" of an inch.
3. Place the box on the slab and cut slab slightly larger than the box.
4. For the wall slabs, texture them with a broken piece of styrofoam, then cut them into sections for the walls.
5. Lay the wall sections with the textured side out into place and join them together gently so as not to erase the texture.
6. To build towers, wrap textured sections around cardboard tubes that have been covered in newspaper, joining them at the seams.
7. Before attaching the towers, let the clay stiffen slightly and slide the box out of the castle. Reinforce the wall joints by smoothing a coil into the corners of the walls and floor of the castle
8. To join the towers, cut a small section out of the tower and attach the walls to the corner of the castle
9. Finish by adding details, cut out bricks on the top of the walls & towers, make windows and sills, and cut out and texture a door.
10. When the castle is leather hard, apply 3 coats of CC 119 to all the walls and towers. Apply 3 coats of CC 117 to the door. Make sure the coats are dry before adding more.
11. Bisque fire to Cone 04.
12. Sponge on E-Z Stroke 037 that has been thinned with water. Wipe back the color so that it only remains in the textured areas.
13. Fire to a Cone 06.

Project Closure:

Language Arts connection and project closure

- Write and illustrate a brief description of this project, include detailed descriptions of the materials used and what happened during this project.

National Standards for the Arts:

<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/ArtsStandards.html>

<http://www.mcrel.org/compendium/Standard.asp?SubjectID=13>

State Standards:

<http://edstandards.org/Standards.html>

Or refer to the Dept. of Education for a specific state.

Please visit www.duncanceramics.com, Art Educators tab, Learning tab, to view the Standards based Vocabulary and Language Instruction, Art Project Rubric, and Writing Rubric documents.

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