

Duncan ColorWorks





Camel Container - - Ceramic Art Lesson Plan

Grade Level: 4-8

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Introduction:

Did you know that a one-hump camel is a dromedary and a two-hump camel is called a bactrian. The one-hump camel can be found in Western Asia and Africa while the two-humped camel can be found in Mongolia and Chinese Turkistan. Everyone thinks camels store water in those humps on their back, but in fact, they store fat in these humps and water in their stomachs. Camels use the fat storage for energy. They need that energy for the very long walks they take in the desert. Camels are very large animals that tend to be grumpy and have been known to bite, spit, and slobber. The camel has been used as a pack animal that carries large amounts of supplies over long distances and is still the sole means of transportation for many cultures.

Educational Objectives:

This lesson provides opportunities for students to:

- Learn how to construct three dimensional forms in clay
- Understand and apply standards based vocabulary
- Learn how to throw small pots on a potters wheel
- Learn how to use an clay extruder
- Study how to join different clay bodies together
- Understand the geography related to camels and where they live

References:

The University of Michigan Museum of Zoology
Animal Search
The Oakland Zoo
Smithsonian National Zoological Park

<http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu>
<http://animalsearch.net>
<http://www.oaklandzoo.org>
<http://natzoo.si.edu/default.cfm>

Teaching Tips:

- Pre throw containers for students to save time.
- Review camel information and studies before you start your project.
- Discuss exaggerated expressions and how they will add character to their camel.

Duncan Materials:

Concepts™ Underglazes for Bisque and Majolica:

- 15, 2 oz. CN 232 Bright Briarwood for bisque
- 4, 2 oz. CN 183, Dark Kiwi for bisque

Satin Glazes:

- 2, 2 oz. SN 352 White

Clear Glazes:

- 15, 2 oz. SN 351 Clear

Brushes/Tools:

- BR 582 No. 5/0 Detail brush
- BR 593 3/4-inch Economy Glaze Brush
- TL 406 Lace Draper



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- TL 401 Cleanup tool
- TL 415 Sponge

Miscellaneous Materials:

- 75-lbs red bodied clay
- Garlic press
- Board to roll out clay
- Short bamboo skewers for cutting clay and detailing
- Water containers
- Disposable plates to hold camel parts.
- Paper towels
- Water bowls

Step-By-Step:

1. Give each student 3-lbs of clay.
2. Show students how to work the clay into rounded cone shape.
3. Place the cone on the potter's wheel and pull a small pot. You might think about throwing thirty pots with lids yourself; thirty students throwing pots might require practice and time. But it can be done.
4. Cover with moist newspaper and set the pot aside and overnight. Use the extra clay to form the neck and four legs, remember camels have two toes. Cover the pot and parts with moist newspaper and set aside overnight. Save a little clay for the next step.
5. Make round balls for the eyes; indent your thumb in the back of the ball. This will be the side that will be placed in the eye socket. Set them aside. Square six small pieces of clay using the TL 401 Cleanup tool, these are the teeth, and set them aside with the pot and other parts.
6. This is fun part, now it's time to make the head. Using pictures from texts or from memory, shape your camel head. Remember their snouts are large & long, eyes are big & bug out, and their ears are tall and wide. You can exaggerate features and create great character. Set the head aside overnight with the rest of the parts.
7. Once these shapes are completed and smoothed with water, use a bamboo skewer or the TL 406 Lace Draper to score or lute the place where the legs, neck, eyes, and teeth will be attached. Lute or score the pot where the neck and legs will attach, us a little clay slip with a tiny bit of water and your finger to attach them to the pot. Smooth out the connections around the eyes and teeth using the BR 582 No. 5/0 Detail brush. Be very careful, to much movement and parts will fall off.
8. Use a garlic press to push clay through for hair. Don't forget to lute or score the area before you attach the extruded clay. Store constructed camel in a cool place until dry.
9. The clay will have to be completely dry. You can test the dryness of the clay by touching the clay to your face. If it is cold and not light in color it is still wet and will explode in the kiln when fired.
10. Use Concepts™ CN 232 Underglaze for bisque, Bright Briarwood to cover the entire Camel. Apply two coats to the inside of the pot. Use Concepts CN 183, Dark Kiwi for the eyes and Satin Glazes SN 352 White for the teeth. Don't forget to clean the underglaze from the bottom of the feet and the lid bottom. Fire to cone 04.
11. Cover with Clear Glazes SN 351 and fire to 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>



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<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, Learn tab, to view the Standards based Vocabulary and Language Instruction, Art Project Rubric, and Writing Rubric documents.