

# Duncan ColorWorks

## Little Oyster Ceramic Art Lesson Plan



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## Little Oyster - - Ceramic Art Lesson Plan

**Grade Level:** K-3

**By Maria Espinoza**

### **Introduction:**

Thousands of creatures live at the bottom of the sea. There is one who carries a surprise that is extremely valuable, the oyster. The oyster is a bottom dwelling creature that filters sand in and out of its shell looking for food. In the process of filtering sand, it produces a deposit of minerals that eventually turns into a pearl, which is admired for its beauty and white opaque color. Humans have jumped into the ocean for hundreds of years just to retrieve these highly prized gems that are used for various decorative jewelry pieces such as rings, bracelets, watches, and necklaces.

### **Educational Objectives:**

This lesson provides opportunities for students to:

- Work with slab based construction
- Learn how to apply and use different glazes
- Learn how to integrate natural science and art
- Understand the ocean environment as an sensitive ecosystem

### **References:**

NOVA

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/pearl/time.html>

American Museum of Natural History

<http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/pearls/marine/black.html>

National Ocean Service:

<http://www.nos.noaa.gov/welcome.html>

NASA:

<http://topex-www.jpl.nasa.gov/education/tutorial2.html>

### **Teaching Tips:**

- Let the students research the oyster online or in the library before the project.
- Bring shells from different bottom dwelling creatures so students can get an idea of texture, size, and shape of an oyster.
- Pre-cut and put out tennis ball size pieces of clay.

### **Duncan Materials:**

#### **Envision™ Glazes:**

- 2-3, 4 oz. IN 1054 Cantaloupe (inside the oyster)

#### **Crystals & Crackles™ Glazes:**

- 5, 4 oz. CR 904 Fudge Marble (the shell)

#### **Concepts™ Underglazes for Bisque and Majolica**

- 2, 2oz. CN 241 White

#### **Brushes/Tools:**

- BR 582 No. 5/0 Detail
- BR 529 No. 4 Sabeline Round
- TL 406 Lace Draper
- TL 415 Sponge



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### Miscellaneous Materials:

- 30 pounds of White bodied clay (approximately 1 lbs. for each student)
- Rolling pin(s) for rolling slabs
- Two boards of equal thickness to use as shims for slab rolling
- Newspaper

### Step-by-Step:

1. Place the two boards parallel to each other on either side of the clay so that the slab can be rolled to an even thickness.
2. Roll a lima bean-sized ball and set it aside.
3. Cut out two ovals the size of your palm and lay one on top of the other. At one end, cut two pieces off just slightly squaring one end of the oval.
4. Join the squared edges by scoring and then moistening between the two pieces of clay.
5. Pinch the top piece of clay, almost making a pleat.
6. Open the two pieces of clay and crimp the top and bottom edges by pinching the edge with your fingers or using your paintbrush handle to push against the edge.
7. Your oyster should be open wide so you can score the spot where your pear will go. Score and moisten the spot where the pearl will go and stick your lima bean sized ball on. Twist it slightly to make sure it is fastened.
8. Set aside under newspaper to dry for 2 to 3 days.
9. When the piece is completely dry, carefully bisque fire to Cone 04.
10. After the piece is fired, paint the exterior of the oyster and the inside lip with CR 904 Fudge Marble. Paint the inside of the oyster with IN 1054 Cantaloupe. Paint the pearl attached to the inside of the oyster with CN 241 White. 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>

<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](http://www.duncanceramics.com)., Art Educators tab, Learn tab to view the Standards based Vocabulary and Language Instruction, Art Project Rubric, and Writing Rubric documents.**