

Duncan ColorWorks

Pocket Full of Posies Ceramic Art Lesson Plan



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Pocket Full of Posies - - Ceramic Art Lesson Plan

Grade Level: 3-6

By Pat Hinz

Introduction:

Plants are a focus of many grade levels. With this lesson, children will artistically explore flowers, plant life cycles, and possibly the ecology that surrounds the plant world. Students can study flowers and then make them. The container is also a study in design, pattern and color. This project is one that can be fun for all ages. Decorating on clay is always creative. This will be done with stamps that can be pressed into the clay to make a design. These tools will be used to add dimension to the hanging clay pot and flowers.

Educational Objectives:

This lesson provides opportunities for students to:

- Learn sculpting techniques such as rolling, pinching and scoring.
- Embellishing the plaque with stamps to make a pleasing design.
- Making and adding clay flowers and leaves.
- Creating an original ceramic piece through creative self-expression.
- Develop an understanding of plant life cycles.
- Explore flowers and their differences.

References:

University of Illinois Extension:

<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/gpe/case1/c1facts1b.html>

The Fullerton Arboretum:

<http://www.arboretum.fullerton.edu/grow/primer/cycle.asp>

Life Cycle of Plants:

<http://www.ccps.org/ccps/wbl/plants/Plants.html>

Garden Guides:

<http://www.gardenguides.com/flowers/flowers.htm>

Gardening:

<http://www.essortment.com/in/Gardening.Flowers/>

Teaching Tips:

- Present real flowers to the students for ceramic flower ideas.
- Draw the flowers and their parts.
- Bring in potted plants so students can see plants that hang over a pot edge.
- Use a color chart or wheel to help students with color choices.
- Have students make patterns with objects in clay to practice and select designs.
- Planting real flowers might help some students understand the features and textures of flowers.
- Pre cut a pattern for the back and pocket of the hanging pot.

Duncan Materials:

Concepts™ Underglazes for Bisque:

- 2 oz. Concept™ Underglazes in assorted colors

Envision™ Glazes:

- IN 1001 Clear Glaze

Duncan Crafts:

- Chunky Decor Stamps™
- Aleene's® Original Tacky Glue®
- Aleene's® Floral Glue



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Miscellaneous Materials:

- Low fire white clay (approximately 1 lb. for each student)
- Rolling pin(s) for rolling slabs
- Cloth covered board (9 X 11)
- Plastic knives or bamboo stick for cutting the clay
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- Bamboo sticks cut at different lengths
- Flower Cheaters or flower cookie cutters to make flowers
- Bucket of water for washing hands after the project
- Newspaper

Step-by-Step:

1. Give each student 1 lb. of clay.
2. Divide the clay into two pieces. One piece will need to be 2/3rds of the clay and the other 1/3 of the clay.
3. Flatten the larger piece of clay so that the clay can be rolled to a flat 1/4" thickness.
4. Use a pattern to cut the back of the plaque with a bamboo stick.
5. Flatten the smaller piece of clay and roll it out to a 1/4" thickness for the pocket.
6. Use a pocket pattern to cut out one pocket. This will be a little larger than the back piece because you want the clay to bend to make room inside the pocket.
7. Refer to pre drawn designs and patterns and talk about design and placement of the stamps.
8. Let the children pick from the assortment of Duncan stamps. Let them press in the designs before assembling the pocket to the back. Be sure they decorate both the back and the pocket.
9. When the back and the pocket are finished, score the edge of the back where the pocket will be placed. Also, score the back of the pocket on the edge.
10. Place a small-wadded piece of newspaper or paper towel in the center of the area where the pocket will be placed. This will hold the pocket up away from the back.
11. Place slip (a mixture of clay and water) on the scored areas and put the two pieces together. With your thumb, press the edge of the pocket together around the bottom of the plaque. You can use other things to press instead of your thumb, i.e. tongue depressor, paper clip and Popsicle stick, etc.
12. Place two holes at the top of the plaque for the yarn to go through for hanging.

Flowers and Leaves

1. Using Flower Cheaters, press a small lump of clay onto the form and smooth off the clay on the edges.
2. With another tiny piece of clay lift the edge of the clay from the Flower Cheater form.
3. Place a hole in the middle of the flower with a bamboo stick.
4. Let dry thoroughly.

Fire, Decorate, Finish

1. Set aside under newspaper to dry, 3 to 7 days.
2. When the piece is completely dry, bisque fire to Cone 04.
3. Decorate with a variety of Duncan Concepts. Use at least two coats of Concepts to make bright and intense designs. Leave the clay without paint in some areas.
4. Brush on IN 1001 Clear Glaze and Fire to Cone 06.



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Assembly Flowers

1. Use different lengths of bamboo sticks and Aleene's® Original Tacky Glue® to assemble.
2. Dip the end of the bamboo stick onto the Aleene's® Original Tacky Glue® and then stick into the hole of the flower.
3. Using Aleene's® Floral Glue in the bottom of the pocket, place your flowers in the pocket.

Other Uses For Your Pocket Plaque

1. Add stick candy i.e. candy canes, Tootsie Pops
2. Pencil holder
3. Dried flower arrangements
4. Plant Nasturtiums seeds in dirt
5. Plant succulents
6. Holds your keys

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