

Duncan Colorworks

Native Design Coil Vase Ceramic Art Lesson Plan



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Native Design Coil Vase - Ceramic Art Lesson Plan

Grade Level: 3-8

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Introduction:

Students will be constructing a vase that will be decorated with native designs and patterns. As with many cultures, coil containers were used as storyboards to record our history. Clay coil containers were written on with artwork, very old alphabets, and designs that have revealed a great deal about human history. These pots came in all shapes and sizes. While constructing the coil containers students are embarking on a practice that has been shared by many cultures for many purposes. Vases are versatile containers that can be used for a variety of purposes. They come in many shapes and sizes, so as you build your coils, find a shape that you like and be creative. Visit the web pages to identify a specific kind of design, and then recreate the styles and patterns that they find. Maybe your designs will reveal something about you to your classmates. This lesson will provide you with a better understanding of art and culture, as well as the time and energy it takes to create a functional pot.

Educational Objectives:

This lesson provides opportunities for students to:

- Create a coil vase.
- Role, stack, and design a vase.
- Learn about native designs and patterns.
- Learn to use glazes and fire clay.
- Develop patterns and repetitive designs.
- Develop an understanding of the Native American Culture.

References:

Native American: <http://www.sla.purdue.edu/WAAW/Peterson/Petersonessay2.html>
Native American Technology & Art: <http://www.nativetech.org/>
History of Ceramics: http://www.claypath.webga.com/sw_american.html
Ancient Native Village Living History Museum: <http://www.ancientnative.org/anv.html>

Teaching Tips:

- Have the students work slowly or their pots will flop over. Build five to six inches a day letting it firm up but not dry.
- Let students practice rolling coils.
- Model the construction several times for younger children.
- Journals can be kept to recall the construction process and historical information.
- Preview native designs and patterns, present actual artwork if possible.
- Do a lesson on symbols and show samples of native symbols. This can also be a simple writing project.
- Have the students pre-draw designs, patterns and symbols.

Duncan Materials:

Cover Coat™ Opaque Underglazes:

- 5 of each CC117 and CC165, 2 oz. Cover Coat® Opaque Underglazes



Coil Vase with Native Designs - Ceramic Art Lesson Plan

- CC117 Walnut Brown- for the color wash on vase
- CC165 Black Brown- for the design details

Brushes/Tools:

- BR 576 ¾" Premium Glaze
- BR 582 No. 5/0 Detail
- TL 415 Sponge
- BR 593 ¾ inch Economy Glaze Brush
- TL 401 Cleanup tool

Miscellaneous Materials:

- 60 lbs white low-fire clay
- Board to roll out clay
- Water containers
- Newspaper
- Bamboo splinter or BR 582 No. 5/0 Detail brush for details

Step-by-Step:

1. Day one: Take a 2 lb. ball of clay and roll out several coil canes.
2. Wind the coils on top of each other to create a raised form.
3. Join the edges with just a bit of water.
4. Use a tool or your hands to smooth the insides.
5. Day two: repeat steps 1-4 until the vase is complete.
6. To keep the coil pot from cracking as it dries, place it in a plastic wrapper and let it dry for 3 to 5 days. Larger pots will need to dry longer.
7. The clay will have to be completely dry. You can test the dryness of the clay by touching it to your face. If it is cold and not light in color, it is still wet and will explode in the kiln when fired. Bisque fire at cone 04.
8. Paint each piece using the Cover Coat® Underglazes, stilt if necessary and fire to shelf 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, Learn tab to view the Standards based Vocabulary and Language Instruction, Art Project Rubric, and Writing Rubric documents.