



Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Instructional Resources Library

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Clay Pinch Pot

Age(s)/Grade Level(s): Elementary (K-5)

Subject(s): Art

Length of time: 45 minutes

Objective(s):

- Use fine motor skills and design elements to create a pinch pot out of clay

Materials Needed:

- Plastic tray or cookie sheet
- Parchment paper or wax paper sheet
- Air dry clay
- Clay tools (popsicle sticks, pencils, toothpicks, or plastic utensils can be substituted for formal clay tools)
- Paint
- Paintbrushes

Lesson/Activity Sequence:

1. Cover the tray/cookie sheet with parchment or wax paper to create the work area. Depending on the age of the students, they can prepare their own workspace with the materials.
2. Give each student a chunk of clay.
3. Students will roll the clay between two hands to create a ball shape.
4. They will place the ball on the workspace and then put both thumbs on the top of the ball.
5. They will press down their thumbs to create a dent in the top of the ball of clay.
6. Students will put their thumbs in the dent, placing the rest of their fingers on the outside of the ball.
7. They will pinch the clay between their thumb and fingers.
8. They will turn the clay slightly and pinch again.
9. They will continue to pinch and turn the clay until the clay begins to look like a bowl or pot shape.

10. Students can use their fingers to smooth out the clay on the inside and outside of the pot.
11. Students can use tools of their choice to begin making texture on the outside of the pot. They can draw or poke designs with the tools. They will need to be careful not to push too hard with the tools. They do not want to make holes completely through the sides. This can make the pot flimsy and cause it to break as it dries.
12. Once the student is content with their designs, they can let it dry overnight on the tray.
13. When the pot is completely dry, the student can decide to paint with the colors of their choice. After they have finished painting their pot, they will need to let it dry again overnight.

How will I assess student progress?

- Observe students as they manipulate the clay to ensure they are following directions.
- The finished art piece will serve as the product to be assessed with a rubric.

Differentiation:

- For students who have difficulty manipulating both hands together, they can form a ball by rolling the chunk of clay on the tray surface rather than between their hands.
- For students who have limited hand strength, they may need to continue to pinch and turn the pot more times to make the sides of the pot thinner.
- Provide a piece of extra clay that can be flattened so that students can experiment with various tools and texture designs before starting on the pot. If students make mistakes with their designs, they can use fingers to smooth out the clay.