

LESSON 6 OF 10

# Clay Vessels

by *Debi West*

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

### High school students will ...

- learn how to make clay slab and coil vessels (containers) reiterating form and function in 3D artworks
- experiment with various clay techniques as they hand build their vessels.
- learn about glazes and chemical reactions used in ceramic art.

## MATERIALS

- Clay
- Clay tools
- Glazes, brushes
- Kiln
- Reference materials for inspiration

## PROCEDURES

1. Students learn about different clay-building techniques, such as slab and coil.
2. Students build a slab container using the slip-and-score method.
3. Students add coils to their vessels, as well as cutout slab shapes if needed, for their design.
4. Students hand build their vessels,

experimenting with ceramic techniques learning through the process.

5. Students fire their greenware in the kiln.
6. Students glaze their bisqueware to add color and a "liquid glass" effect.
7. Students fire their pieces once again.
8. The clay vessels will be displayed in a case for the community to enjoy.

## ASSESSMENT

I use a project evaluation form for each lesson I teach. This allows my students to appropriately reflect on the learning at hand and leaves room for them to comment on the process and how they feel the final piece turned out. It also allows me to comment and give them a grade based on their learning *and* their final work. We also do in-process critiques using my "2 Glows and a Grow" model.

# Clay Vessels Study Guide

## Clay Terms

- **Additive:** Adding clay slab pieces to create unique designs, a process in which material is built up.
- **Armature:** A supporting skeletal structure that prevents a sculpture from collapsing during construction.
- **Bisqueware:** A first firing of clay without glazes, clay that has been fired once.
- **Bisque Firing:** A first firing.
- **Bone dry:** Unfired clay that is free of water and ready to fire, has lost all moisture and is light and dusty.
- **Ceramic:** Clay product that is made with clay.
- **Clay:** A moist earth of decomposed rock, or earth with special plastic quality that becomes hard when fired.
- **Coiling:** A method of creating pots by building bottom and walls with even, ropelike or snakelike coils.
- **Form:** An element of art used in this project, three dimensional and encloses volume.
- **Glaze:** A liquid suspension of minerals that melt in the kiln to produce a glasslike surface, finely ground mineral solution painted on bisque ware; when fired, it becomes glassy; liquid glass.
- **Greenware:** Clay in an unfired state.
- **Kiln:** A furnace used for firing clay products.
- **Leather hard:** Unfired clay that isn't quite dry, yet firm enough to carve or burnish, stiff but still moist.
- **Low fire clay:** 1900 degree firing or less.
- **Loop tools:** The tools with ribbons of wire for shaping and trimming ceramic objects.
- **Needle Tip Tool:** Tool with a needle tip for fine lines and designing in clay.
- **Scoring:** Making marks on the edges of two pieces of clay before joining with slip.
- **Slip:** Clay diluted with water to the consistency of cream; used for joining.
- **Scratch to Attach:** Term used for "clay glue (see scoring and slip).
- **Slab:** Clay evenly rolled and formed by draping or joining.
- **Subtractive:** Removing material, taking clay away from the form; scraping, scratching or pulling clay away.
- **Wedging:** Kneading moist clay to eliminate air bubbles and produce a uniform texture.



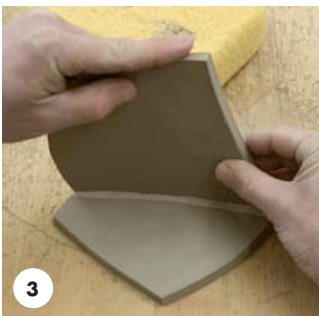
**Q1. What is this an example of?**

**A1:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Q2. This is an example of what type of clay construction?**

**A2:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Q3. This is an example of what type of clay construction?**

**A3:** \_\_\_\_\_