



Visual Anthropology – Ceramics Technology

Subjects Social Studies, Art

Grades 4-7

Brief Description

This hands-on activity invites students to assess the content of visual images and place the images in a logical production sequence. This lesson helps students understand how hand-made technologies allow for creative expression. The lesson fits well into curricula relating to art, ancient cultures and local history and should be taught after the students have had an introduction to basic ceramic construction. This lesson may be done in conjunction with 'Pottery Reconstruction', also on this web site.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Research the steps of making a ceramic vessel by hand
- Learn about the skills required to construct a ceramic vessel
- Reflect on the creativity and skills of potters in traditional cultures
- Use a database and search functions to find relevant images
- Analyze visual images
- Use their knowledge of ceramic technology to sequence photographs

Keywords

History, ancient, art, archaeology, artifact, prehistoric, pottery, ceramics, image analysis

Materials Needed

- access to the the *¡Hola Canada! The Latin-American Collections at the Simon Fraser University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology* web site
- access to a printer
- writing tools

Lesson

Have the students access the image database and search for all the images that illustrate the stages of ceramic manufacture. (See list below.) They can do this by searching for 'Pottery' in the 'Subject' category of the Archival Images Database. Have the students place these images in their 'Build Your Own Exhibit' folder on the web site. The students can either print the images and do the exercise off line, or examine the images on line.

Aided by their previous knowledge of pottery manufacture, and in light of their previous experience in reconstructing a pot, have the students write out a description of the actions being taken in each image. These descriptions should be at least four complete sentences long and should describe the image in a detailed fashion.

Next, have the students arrange the images in a chronological sequence. What process must have been done first? What process done last? What are the broad stages of pottery manufacture, and what steps are involved in each broad stage?

The students will complete a final report that outlines the processes of making a hand built ceramic vessel in a traditional context. They will organize the images in chronological order and place their four sentence caption under each one. They will create a title page, and an index and summary statement at the end.

Evaluation

Observe how students work together and stay on task. Students are graded on the accuracy of their sequencing, precision of their understanding of the image content and the quality of their written report.

Teacher's Note: The following is a list of the image numbers relating to pottery manufacture in the **Archival Images Database**.

Sequence of Pottery Construction

<u>Gather clay</u>	<u>Dry pottery</u>
2004.022.164	2006.016.329
2006.016.323	2006.016.334
	2006.016.550
<u>Dry clay</u>	2006.016.584
2006.016.586	
	<u>Fire pottery</u>
<u>Mix clay with temper</u>	2004.022.134
2006.016.322	2004.022.135
2006.016.332	2004.022.142
2006.016.333	2004.022.145
	2004.022.146
<u>Form pottery</u>	2004.022.159
2004.022.141	2004.022.161
2004.022.154	2006.016.449
2006.016.328	
2006.016.589	<u>Finished Pottery</u>
2006.016.590	2004.022.317
2006.016.591	2004.022.318
2006.016.592	2006.016.326
2006.016.593	2006.016.549
2006.016.595	2006.016.557
2006.016.596	2006.016.580
2006.016.597	2006.016.582
2006.016.598	
2006.016.599	<u>Store or sell pottery</u>
2006.016.600	2004.022.150
2006.016.602	2004.022.202
2006.016.603	2004.022.323
2006.016.604	2006.016.330
	2006.016.336