

Lesson 3 - Title: North Carolina's in My Pottery!
Grade Level: 4th Grade

Purpose: To provide hands-on opportunities for students to design and create pottery to reflect their surroundings

North Carolina Standard Course of Study Objectives:

- Visual Arts Objectives 1.01, 2.02
- Social Studies Objectives 5.02, 3.02
- Language Arts Objective 4.02

Materials/Resources:

Crayola air-dry clay (Roll out clay and cut 5 inch x 5 inch slab/plaques in advance of the lesson); visuals for NC state symbols and/or symbols for local surroundings; a good source for these symbols is statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/nc/symbols/symbols.htm; tools to use with clay (plastic forks and knives, toothpicks, and paper clips work well and are inexpensive); When Clay Sings by Byrd Baylor; wax paper; Pottery Rubric (attached); acrylic paints or spray paint for when the pottery dries; clear acrylic sealant

Procedure:

1. Read aloud When Clay Sings and discuss as a group. Be sure to emphasize that while clay cannot actually speak, the design of pottery can tell us about the person who made the pottery and about that person's surroundings.
2. Review and discuss symbols from North Carolina. Discuss why each symbol was chosen. Brainstorm with the students other symbols that reflect the area in which they live.
3. Have each student choose a symbol (state symbol or local symbol) with which to decorate their pottery plaque.
4. Provide instruction for and demonstration of techniques that use tools to create different effects on the clay. Demonstrate how to roughen the two surfaces to be joined.
5. Distribute pottery slab/plaques. This works well to provide a piece of wax paper on which to keep their work. This allows the work to be moved and protects the work surface. Provide each student with a piece of clay with which to form their design.
6. Allow several days for the pottery creations to dry.
7. Choose one of these painting methods: Allow students to use acrylic paints and brushes to paint their designs or spray paint each finished plaque a solid color. (The design will still show.)
8. After the paint dries, spray each finished plaque with acrylic sealant and allow to dry.
9. Remind students of When Clay Sings and have each student create a free verse poem entitled "If My Clay Could Sing..." (see attached examples that you may share with students) Students may word process, print and decorate their poems.

Assessment Suggestions:

- Have students complete the attached rubric and complete self-reflection.
- Hold a group discussion about what the students have learned during this activity.

If My Clay Could Sing...

It would sing of white petals.

It would sing of green leaves.

It would sing of bending,
winding branches.

It would sing of blooming in
spring.

It would sing of dressing the
mountains in white.

It would sing of dogwoods.

