

Textured Hemispherical Pinch Pot

To create a pinch pot for this assignment ...

1. Begin with a ball of clay about as big as your fist.
2. Hold your clay in the palm of your hand and plunge your thumb from your other hand into the clay, going about two thirds the way through the clay.
3. Then, with your thumb still in the clay, squeeze the clay slightly between you thumb and the opposing index finger.
4. Turn the ball of clay so that you may squeeze the clay again, overlapping the first squeeze or pinch. Continue to turn and pinch the clay. This will widen the opening in the clay, forming a bowl.
5. Carefully pinch the clay to form a hemisphere with a slightly flattened bottom. The flat spot on the bottom will help stabilize your bowl.
6. Be sure to form a perfectly round bowl that has the same thickness at the rim, the sides and the bottom.
7. After the clay is formed into a hemispherical bowl, the clay must be allowed to harden by drying.
8. After the clay becomes leather hard create an incised texture on the outside of your bowl. Consider rhythm, pattern, and contrast. Carve your initials and period number into the bottom of your pinch pot.
9. Then, your pinch pot is ready to be sent to the kiln room where it will continue to dry to bone dry.
10. Only when your project is bone dry can it be fired without exploding. Then, the instructor will fire your work.
11. When you receive your work from the kiln room it will be bisque fired. Then you can put glaze and red iron oxide on your pinch pot.



12. Brush your preferred glaze color on the inside of your bowl.
13. Brush red iron oxide on the outside of you pot, where you have incised texture. Then, sponge off most of the red iron oxide and leave the incisions and depressions dark to create contrast on the outside of your pinch pot.
14. Send your work to the kiln room again to be fired the second time.
15. When your work comes out of the kiln the red iron oxide will have turned dark brown, the glaze on the inside will have changed to glass, and the clay will have been vitrified, rendering it impermeable to water.
16. Take your work to the teacher's desk to be graded before you take your work home.

Tools: Your hands, stylus or other carving tool, paint brush, sponge

Vocabulary:

bisque	leather hard
bone dry	pattern
contrast	pinch pot
fired	red iron oxide
glaze	rhythm
hemisphere	texture
impermeable	vitrified
incised	

California Department of Education Visual Arts Performing Standards for Public Schools /
Grades Nine through Twelve:

- 1.0 Artistic Perception
- 1.1 Identify and use the principles of design:
 - contrast
 - rhythm
 - texture
- 2.0 Creative Expression
- 2.1 Solve a visual arts problem that involves the effective use of the elements of art and the principles of design.
- 3.0 Historical and Cultural Context
- 3.1 Identify similarities and differences in the purposes of art created in selected cultures.
Review of ancient pottery made using the pinch technique.
- 4.0 Aesthetic Valuing
- 4.5 Employ the conventions of art criticism in writing and speaking about works of art.
Descriptive writing.
- 5.0 Connections, Relationships, Applications
- 5.4 Demonstrate an understanding of the various skills of an artist.
Discuss and review artist practice as an accumulation of skills.

Grading Checklist

- 1. Is the overall form hemispherical? ☐
- 2. Does the pinch pot have uniform thickness? ☐
- 3. Has the student followed instructions for applying glaze on the inside and red iron oxide on the outside? ☐
- 4. Does the texture show rhythm, pattern, and contrast? ☐
- 5. Does the pinch pot have overall balance of weight and visual interest? ☐