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The following lessons were created by Mrs. Mary Barbara Summerfield, a teacher participating in a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Teachers entitled Touch the Past: Archaeology of the Upper Mississippi River Region.

Subject: Art

Grade Level: 6-8th (This Project)

Lesson Plan Title: Discover Woodland Culture (Wisconsin) Basic Pottery Techniques

Brief Description:

1. Introduction
 - a. Vocabulary
 - b. Time Line
 - c. Techniques
2. Process Raw Clay in the Woodland Culture Style
 - a. Harvest Clay
 - b. Process to Remove Impurities
 - c. Mix with Shell Temper to Improve Plasticity
3. Create Clay Pinch Pot – Sun Bake
 - a. Clay Tools for Decoration
 - b. Burnish Pots
4. Create Clay Coil Pot – Sun Bake
 - a. Clay Tools for Decoration
 - b. Burnish Pots
5. Handouts
 - a. Drill Bow (Fire Starter)
 - b. Firing Process: Open Campfire

(Note: Please complete the blanks as appropriate for your state, standards and area of study).

Concept/Topic to Teach:

Standards Addressed:

Objectives:

Procedures:

Step 1: Students may be able to assist in this process depending on age, etc.

- Harvest clay in an area rich in ancient riverbed clay.
- Dry clay thoroughly...break into small pieces, if necessary.
- Pound or sift clay to remove heavy dirt clods and grasses.
- Soak clay in water for 2 to 4 days.
- Knead clay to further reduce clods.
- Stone crush mussel shells, or bake on a campfire and crush.
- Make clay slip.
- Optional: Crush a piece of red hematite. Mix with water.

Step 2:

- Prehistoric Clay Power Point Program
- Introduce or review basic clay terms.

Clay	Fire	Clay Prehistoric Tool Kit
Temper	Bisque	Paddle, Stones, Sticks, etc.
Slip	Burnish	
Pigment	Wedge	
Hematite		

Step 3:

- Discuss characteristics of Woodland pots; show slides if available.
- Show pictures/slides/models of pinch pots, if available.

Step 4: Have students mix shell tempera with raw clay until it becomes plastic, or manageable.

Step 5: Model making of basic pinch pots/students make pots. Model “painting” of decorations with slip or hematite solution.

- Start with a snowball shape.
- Pierce the center of the clay with a finger.
- Develop into a bowl shape.
- Tap bottom of pot to make a “foot.”
- Invite students to decorate pots.
- Students should carve initials into bottom of pots for easy identification.

Step 6: Clean-up.

Step 7: Sun bake the pots.

Optional Activity: Coil Pots

Note: Modern coil pots are started with a slab or flat base. Woodland culture pots may have started as pinch pots. Coils (snake-like shapes) would have been added as the pots reached a leather hard stage. Coils should be added until the desired height has been reached.

Model:

- The placement of coils on the lip of a pinch pot.
- Placing slip between each coil, and pushing the edges together with a tool such as a finger or a clam shell.

Step 1: Supplies

- Clay Clay Buckets Water
- Cleaning Materials: Water, Paper Towels, Handwipes

Steps 2 & 3:

- Prehistoric Clay Power Point
- Clay Tool Kit
- Models/Slides/Pictures of Pots

Step 4:

- Raw Clay
- Crumbled Shell Temper
- Clay Tool Kits
- Table Protection

Step 5: Students make pinch pots.

Step 6: Clean-up.

- Water, Paper Towels, Handwipes

Evaluation:
