Pottery around the World
Illustrated Art Lessons

Coiling a Pot

Materials: 25-pound bag of clay • cutting wire • tongue depressors or plastic knives • pencils or paper clips • newspaper • plastic bags • squares of cardboard • bowls of water • kiln (if firing) • paint • acrylic paint

1. Cover tables with newspaper. Using the cutting wire, divide the clay and give each student about one pound, plus a bowl of water and a plastic bag. Use the water to keep the clay moist, and store clay pieces in sealed plastic bags during this activity.

2. Make a base for the pot by rolling a small ball of clay and flattening it to a patty about ½" thick. Make several coils by rolling pieces of clay back and forth until the coils are about 8" to 12" long.

3. Place the clay base on a piece of cardboard as a working surface. Stack the coils on the base by winding them in a circle.

4. Blend the coils with a tongue depressor or plastic knife to create a smooth texture on the outside of the pot. Use fingers to blend the coils on the inside of the pot. Blending will also strengthen the pot.

5. Air-dry the pot until leather hard (moist and cool to the touch but no longer soft). Then carve geometric designs into the pot with a sharp pencil or large paper clip.

6. Fire the pot when it is completely dry. Pots can be painted to enhance the designs. If a kiln is not available, allow the clay to dry completely, then coat it with acrylic paint for strength. Additional paint can be applied over the dried acrylic surface.
Writing a How-To Book: Printing a Book Cover

Materials: 8 ½” x 11” paper • 12” x 18” construction paper • stapler • poster board • pencil • corrugated cardboard cut to 7” x 10” • scissors • glue • pieces of Plexiglas or another smooth, hard surface • printing ink • brayer • inking sheet

1. To create a book, put the pages with the description of the pottery-making process (see the “Pottery around the World” Lesson Chart) in the correct order, and staple along the left margin.

2. Fold a sheet of construction paper around the pages. Staple to form the cover.

3. To print the book cover, draw the shape of the coiled pot on poster board, then cut out the shape. Consider making cut-outs of the pottery tools as well.

4. Arrange these cut shapes and glue them to a piece of 7” x 10” corrugated cardboard to make a printing plate. Allow a day for the glue to dry completely.
5. Squeeze a small amount of printing ink onto the Plexiglas or other smooth, hard surface. Roll the brayer back and forth until it is evenly coated with ink.

6. Apply the ink to the printing plate, rolling the coated brayer back and forth until the plate is evenly coated.

7. Place the printing plate on several sheets of clean newspaper, with the inked side up. Center a sheet of construction paper that matches the color of the book cover on the plate. Press it down and rub firmly to ensure even ink transfer. Remove the paper from the plate.

8. Allow to dry overnight, then glue the print to the book cover. Write the title and author’s name on the cover.
Faces from the Past
Illustrated Art Lessons

Painting Self-Portraits

Materials: 12” x 18” white paper • pencils • paintbrushes • plastic egg cartons • newspaper • paper towels

1. Describe the overall shape of the head. Note the position of the eyes, usually halfway down the face.

2. Note the position of the ears. In general, the top of the ears is even with the eyebrows. The bottom of the ears usually lines up with the bottom of the nose. (This placement varies somewhat with age and ethnic background.)

3. Note the softness and shape of the lips, the length and roundness of the nose, and the placement of the nose in relation to the mouth. Note that the neck is narrower than the head.

4. Sketch self-portraits lightly in pencil, based on the observations above.

5. Introduce painting techniques, and paint self-portraits. (See “Preparing to Paint”.)
1. Using the cutting wire, divide the clay into one-pound sections.

2. Roll each section of clay into a ball.

3. Using the cutting wire, cut each ball in two.

4. Base the portraits on people featured in the family timeline. (See the “Faces from the Past” Lesson Chart.)

5. Put half of the clay flat on the cardboard. Reserve the other half, keeping it moist in a plastic bag. Use the thumb to press the shape of the eyes. Pull and pinch the shape of the nose.

6. Using a plastic knife, tongue depressor, or other tool, cut a slot for the mouth. Form lips, ears, and neck from additional clay.

7. Use extra clay to form the eyebrows, and to add texture to the hair. If the clay portrait is to be fired in a kiln, it must be carefully hollowed out from the back during the leather-hard stage. (See “Physical Changes in Clay”.)
Light, Shadow, and Time
Illustrated Art Lessons

Recording Light and Shadow

Materials: 5" x 7" index cards • scissors • pencils • drawing paper • clock

1. Fold an index card in half and cut a rectangle approximately 1" x 1½" in the center of the folded side. Now the card has a 2" x 3" opening.

2. This card serves as a viewfinder to frame a scene.
3. Go outside and select an object that is exposed to the sun during the school day.

4. Select a place from which to view the object using the viewfinder.

5. Go outside at one-hour intervals and draw the selected object, paying special attention to recording the shadows.
Light, Shadow, and Time
Illustrated Art Lessons

Studying Shadows: Hand-Shadow Drawings

Materials: slide projector • 12" x 18" art paper • markers • scissors • construction paper • glue

1. Tack 12" x 18" art paper to the wall. Set up the slide projector to cast shadows.

2. Create interesting shadows on the paper using hands.

3. Trace the hand shadows onto the paper.

4. Turn the paper to view the tracings from different angles, and transform them into imaginative drawings by adding details with markers.

5. Cut out the shadow shapes and rearrange them on construction paper to create collages.
Charting the Sun: Sun Prints

Materials: inexpensive blue construction paper • scissors • pencils • paper clips, nails, nuts, bolts, or other objects with interesting shapes

Note: Conduct this activity in an area that is exposed to the sun for several hours.

1. Select several objects that have interesting shapes.

2. Arrange these objects on the blue paper, considering space, emphasis, contrast, and texture.

3. After careful placement, expose the paper and objects to the sun. Check at hourly intervals to determine the contrast between exposed and unexposed areas. Students may wish to expose some parts of the composition longer to achieve contrast in value.

4. After exposure time, remove the objects from the paper.
Special Places Take Shape
Illustrated Art Lesson

Making Collages

Materials: 12" x 18" white or manila paper • colored construction paper • scissors • pencils • markers or paint

1. After deciding upon a special place as the subject for a collage, select a color scheme. On pieces of colored construction paper, draw organic and geometric shapes.

2. Cut out the shapes and sort them into two piles: one for organic shapes, one for geometric shapes.

3. Select a 12" x 18" piece of paper as the background. Choose either organic or geometric shapes to create the collage.

4. Arrange the cut shapes on the background to suggest the landscape, buildings, and people in the special place. Think about color harmonies and contrasts while placing the shapes. Arrange the colors and shapes to create a sense of rhythm, movement, and balance in the composition.

5. Using markers or paint, add details to the collage composition.