

POTTERY

Bennington Museum has a lot of pottery and ceramic pieces on display. Pottery-making has been part of the Bennington area's economy since the time of the Revolutionary War. Ceramics have been around for thousands of years. You can learn more about pottery here: <https://kids.kiddle.co/Pottery>

Keywords

Pottery: pots, dishes, and other articles made of earthenware or baked clay

Ceramics: hard objects that people make from inorganic materials, or materials that did not come from plants or animals. Traditional ceramic objects are made from clay or other minerals that come from the ground. This type of ceramics includes pottery and bricks.

Clay: a natural material made up of tiny particles of rock. Clay can be baked, or fired, in an oven

Proportion: the size of the parts of an object in relationship to other parts of the same object



Crocks like this one were used for storing food. [Learn more here.](#)



This decorative figurine features a stag, a male deer. [Learn more here.](#)

Talk About It

Have you ever used clay before?

How do you think the items above were made?

Are there items in your house you think might be made from clay?

What do you think it feels like to work with clay?

What colors do you see?

What do the surfaces look like? How do you think it would feel to touch them?

Are the items above in proportion?

How do you think potters make items proportional?



Make Art

Create your own pinch pot with air dry clay.

Supplies needed: Air-dry clay. Optional: Clay tools for detailing/paint for painting dry pieces.

Set up: Set up a space to work with clay. Make sure you have all the supplies you need. Work in an area where you are comfortable and have good lighting.

Get to work:

To create a pinch pot: Roll a small portion of clay into a ball. Push your thumb in the center and squeeze around the sides to make a pinch pot. You can use toothpicks or clay tools to add details to your pinch pot. Once air-dry clay is dry it can be painted. Check the instructions on the air-dry clay you are working with for drying time and what types of paint you can use once dry.



Reflection Questions

How does it feel to work with clay?

Is your bowl proportional?

Were you able to add texture to your pot using tools like a toothpick? What tools did you use?

How do you feel about what you made?

What else can you make with the clay?



National Core Arts Standards Checklist

Conceiving & Developing New Artistic Ideas & Work

- AS #1 - Generate & Conceptualize Artistic Ideas & Work
- AS #2 - Organize & Develop Artistic Ideas & Work
- AS #3 - Refine & Complete Artistic Work

Presenting - Interpreting and Sharing Artistic Work

- AS #4 - Analyze, Interpret & select artistic work for presentation
- AS #5 - Develop & Refine Artistic Work for Presentation
- AS #6 - Convey Meaning Through the Presentation of Artistic work

Responding - Understanding and Evaluating How the Arts Convey Meaning

- AS #7 - Perceive & Analyze Artistic Work
- AS #8 - Interpret Intent & Meaning in Artistic Work
- AS #9 - Apply Criteria to Evaluate Artistic Work

Connecting - Relating Artistic Ideas and Work with Personal Meaning and External Context

- AS #10 - Synthesize & Relate Knowledge & Personal Experiences to Make Art
- AS #11 - Relate Artistic Ideas & Works with Societal, Cultural, & Historical Context to Deepen Understanding

Want to see more of the pottery in the Bennington Museum collection? Use the searchable online catalog.

Go to <https://bennington.pastperfectonline.com/> and search using the keyword "pottery."

Click on the "items with images only" box to discover nearly 900 examples of pottery from the collection!