

CAEA Lesson Plan

LESSON TITLE: Clay Animal Vessel Heads

Name of Presenter: Pam Avery

Grade Level: MS HS

Background Information: Pam Avery taught high school wheel thrown and hand built ceramics for 21 years along with Beginning and Advanced Art. This lesson is based on experimenting with the pinch pot technique and Pre Columbian animal vessels

Content Standards:

1. Visual Art content standards addressed with the lesson using the following format.

5.0 Connections, Relationships, Applications

5.3 Create art containing visual metaphor that express traditions and myths of selected cultures.

Common Core Content Standards addressed with the lesson:

Speaking and Listening Standards

1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one on one, in groups, and teacher led) with diverse partners on topics, texts and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own.

Learning Objectives/Goals/Essential Understandings:

Participants will use a cultural tradition or myth (Pre Columbian animal vessels) as inspiration to design an artwork

Participants will use a visual metaphor (to create a particular association or point of similarity) in creation of artwork.

Vocabulary:

Words used...related to lesson and concepts taught

Pre Columbian

Visual Metaphor

Vessel

Pinch Pot technique

Modeling

Hand building

Sculpture

Ceramic

Myth

Materials:

Sculpture B Mix Clay

Apron

Bucket/Water

Fettling knives

Sculpting tools: ribbon tools, needle tools

Canvas cloth for tables

Motivation:

Unique and Shared – collaborative group game – Group of 4 or 5 will spend 15 minutes learning what is unique about each individual. Find three common interests, talents or experiences that the group shares and a spokesperson will share the list with the class.

Show images of Pre Columbian art works of animal vessels

Read, discuss and answer questions from Scholastic Art Magazine– Pre

Columbian Ceramists Working With Form, December 2008/ January 2009

Show examples of previous student work of clay animal heads and teacher's example of animal head

Procedure:

Step-by-step instructions

Divide into groups of 3 or 4 and Respond to first Impressions worksheet while looking at a Pre Columbian work of art. Discuss finding with class.

Preview examples of Pre Columbian ceramic animal vessels and their mythology

Show examples of teacher and student animal heads.

Discuss ideas for creating a visual metaphor pertaining to the animal head vessel.

Participants complete animal personality worksheet to develop an idea for subject of clay animal head.

Choose an animal head from magazine images to be the visual metaphor for the clay project

Pinch Pot Technique:

Create an egg/ball form and cut in half

Hollow each half of egg/ball form using pinch pot technique:

Pinch with right thumb inside and use palm and fingers of right hand to create smooth even walls

Brace egg/ball form with side of left hand to retain shape and turn counterclockwise with left hand

Score top edges of 2 halves and place together (adjust size to fit)

Smooth over the middle line using circular motion

Poke a hole in bottom of the head form to let air circulate

Create a lid by drawing a line and cutting into top surface of head.

Assessment

Rubric example for Creativity

Ceramic Vocabulary Review and Test

First Impressions Worksheet

Prompt #1 for reflective writing and discussion:

Reflect on the process of choosing an animal to represent the visual metaphor in this ceramic project.

Prompt #2 for reflective writing and discussion

How does the VAPA standard #5.0 Connections, Relationships, and Applications influence your art making of the animal head vessel?

Prompt #3

How have your hand building skills improved during the process of creating an animal vessel with lid.

Evaluation

Create a hand built ceramic sculpture that includes

1. Elements of art: line, shape, texture, form, color, space
2. An animal image as a visual metaphor
3. Hand built vessel with lid created by pinch pot technique
4. Poetic, humorous, or descriptive words written on the vessel to further develop a visual metaphor
5. Participants share their animal vessels as a gallery exhibit with their artist statements regarding influences from Pre-Columbian art and personal myth.

Extensions:

Follow-up lessons, connections to the performing arts, and other core subjects
Connect to Language Arts by adding descriptive, poetic, or humorous words inscribed into the clay to further add a visual metaphor (connection or similarity between the animal chosen and the creator of the animal). Connect to performing arts with a short skit about the animal and visual metaphor in collaboration with a partner.