

“Clay Mug”



Objective: Students create clay mugs using basic clay techniques.

Materials

- Pencils and Sketch Paper
- Earthenware Clay and Clay Tools
- 4.5” x8.5” rectangular templates
- Empty pop cans
- Glaze or Paint
- Paper Towels

Motivation

- Present a wide variety of mugs in a Power Point presentation
- Show different mugs available for purchase on [etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com).
- Watch a You Tube video of an artist throwing a mug on the wheel
- Tie the project to Ancient Greek pottery

Step 1: Introduction, Sketch

Show examples of clay mugs and discuss different construction techniques like coil, slab, wheel, etc... For this project, students will use slab construction. Brainstorm ideas for mug themes, then have students create sketches.

Step 2: Construction

Demonstrate mug construction. Have students roll out long slabs and cut rectangles using the templates. Next, have students wrap the rectangular pieces of clay around the empty pop cans, scoring, slipping and smoothing the edges together. Finally, have students place the pop can on another slab and trace around the mug body to create a circle to attach for the base.

Have students add details using additive and subtractive methods and different clay tools. You can also show students how to make various handles, like round, braided , slab or shaped.

Step 3: Add Color

Add color using glaze. Acrylic paint will work in a pinch.

Tip: This project usually takes 4 to 5 class periods. One to demonstrate, one to design and sketch and two to three to create the mugs.

Tip: Be sure students don't press down on the pop can, or they could press through the bottom of the mug.