**The History of Ceramics & Basic Techniques**

**Historical Ceramics & Pottery Research Project**

Ceramics students will select a historical culture and era to research (using Metro Library’s online and textual resources) and **create a presentation of around 25 slides** to present in class. Students will also create a **typed research outline** that goes along with their presentation. This outline should be at least 2-3 pages in length. A separate page of sources will be turned in with your outline. The presentation should include ample visuals! Do not overcrowd the presentation with text. Your outline should be used during your presentation so that you can access information accurately. **Presentations should be 5-10 minutes in length.**

**Examples of Cultures and Eras**

**The Neolithic Period**

* A period in the development of human technology, beginning in about 10,200 BC and ending between 4,500 and 2,000 BC.
* North Africa, Europe, South & East Asia, America
* Cultures & Sites
* The invention of the potter’s wheel

**Types of Clay**

* Including where various types can be found &mined around the world and what the differences between each type are
* When they are each used and why an artist might use one over the other
* When and where each were discovered

**Types of Glazes and Evolution of this technology**

* Where and how the first glazes were discoved
* Why were glazes important to the art and utility of ceramics?
* The science behind different glazes and how they react chemically to create finished ceramic objects

**The History of Ceramics in Asia**

* From the beginnings of clay in this region to the present
* The glazes used
* The markings or designs on pots
* The types of pots made, including their shape and use
* Influences on that culture’s ceramic works, including wars, trade routes, etc.

**The History of Ceramics in the Ancient Middle East**

* From the beginnings of clay in this region to the present
* The glazes used
* The markings or designs on pots
* The types of pots made including their shape and use
* Influences on that culture’s ceramic works, such as wars, trade routes, etc.

**The History of Ceramics in the Ancient Middle East**

* From the beginnings of clay in this region to the present
* The glazes used
* The markings or designs on pots
* The types of pots made including their shape and use
* Influences on that culture’s ceramic works, such as wars, trade routes, etc.

**History of Ceramics during Classic Greek and Roman Periods**

* From the beginnings of clay in this region to the present
* The glazes used
* The markings or designs on pots
* The types of pots made including their shape and use
* Influences on that culture’s ceramic works, such as wars, trade routes, etc.

**History of Ceramics in the Americas (NORTH/SOUTH)**

* From the beginnings of clay in this region to the present
* Highlight *specific* American cultures such as Navajo, Inca, Aztec, etc.
* The glazes used
* The markings or designs on pots
* The types of pots made including their shape and use
* Influences on that culture’s ceramic works, such as wars, invasions, trade routes, etc.

**Industrial Ceramics**

* Everyday consumer products made out of ceramic materials consist of construction materials, grinding materials, electrical equipment, dinnerware, glass products, and heat-resistant materials.
* The 4 sectors of industrial ceramics and their applications:

1. **Structural:** Pipes, bricks, roof tiles and floor

2. **Refractory**: kiln linings, gas fire radiant elements, steel and glass making crucibles

3. **White Wares:** sanitary ware, table ware, pottery products and wall tiles

4. **Technical / Engineering:** spacecraft, ballistics, uranium oxide pellets, electronics, biomedical implants and orthopedic prosthetics, missile cones, jet engine turbine blades.

**EQ: How will you design a comprehensive and cohesive presentation about a historical ceramics cultural movement or era?**

**Tips for Success**

* Do your preliminary research independently. Before going on the computer, look in library books, think about your topic and answer the following questions: *What is the time period of your topic? Are there important groups, tribes, cultures or people found within the framework of your topic? What are some major changes that have occurred in the world to advance our knowledge of your topic? What are some major changes that have occurred within the world for the advancement of ceramics within your topic? What were the first ceramic forms made during this period? How did your topic evolve over time?*
* Take notes and record a bibliography (including websites).Include your bibliography at the conclusion of your presentation.
* Do not overload your slides with text. Write *fragments* on each slide; not long sentences.Enlarge images to fit the proportions of each slides, but do not distort them.
* Include relevant dates. They can be approximate.
* Indicate whether the artworks were utilitarian or sculptural.
* Include technical information, such as the types of clay bodies and glazes used, firing temperature (or cones) of the work, type of firing (ex. oxidation, reduction, pit firing, raku, etc.)
* Cite the cultures and locations of artworks & movements.
* Use a font and color scheme that is legible and easy on the eyes.
* Organize your slide content well, present with confidence for 3-5 minutes, use media effectively (you might use hand- outs, videos, examples in clay, etc.)

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| **Big Idea** | **A (89.5-100)** | **B (79.5-89.4)** | **C (69.5-79.4)** | **D (59.5-69.4)** |
| **Skills, Techniques & Processes** | Student has done an exemplary job creating a presentation that is thorough, cohesive and interesting; going above and beyond the requirements. | Student has demonstrated moderate skills in creating a thorough, cohesive and interesting presentation. He or she has met the content requirements. | Student has completed some of the presentation’s content requirements, but not all. A bit more effort would have made this presentation more cohesive and interesting. | The presentation is poorly designed in flow and incomplete in content. It is dull and uninformative. |
| **Organizational Structure** | The content of the presentation is well-organized, linear and sequential. Fonts are easy to read and photos are appropriate size. Background template and colors are harmonious with content. | The presentation follows a linear/sequential format, but some fonts are difficult to read and some photos are not sized accurately. Templates are color choices are somewhat harmonious. | The presentation barely follows a linear or sequential format. Illegible fonts and distorted image resolution hurt the slideshow’s integrity. Some templates and color choices are harmonious, but the student could have done better. | There is little or no organization within the presentation’s content and formatting. Fonts are not legible; colors and template choices clash. |
| **Innovation, Technology &the Future** | The student has demonstrated mastery in the manipulation and synthesis of PowerPoint or Slides software. It is evident that he or she has clearly followed all directions, going above and beyond to create a presentation that looks clean, stylish and professional. | The student has demonstrated good manipulation and synthesis of PowerPoint or Slides software. It is evident that he or she has followed most directions to create a sequential, stylish and professional presentation. | The student has demonstrated average manipulation and synthesis of PowerPoint or Slides software. It is evident that he or she has followed some of the research steps to create their presentation, but did not think their presentation all the way through. | The student has demonstrated poor manipulation and synthesis of PowerPoint or Slides software. The presentation does not make sense;it is incomplete and lacking polish and style. |

**Websites:**

<http://www.humanjourney.us/NeolithicEra.html>

<https://sites.google.com/site/meeneecat/educational-materials/clay-types-geological-origins-working-properties-gccceramics>

<http://archive.artsmia.org/art-of-asia/ceramics/early-chinese-ceramics.cfm>

<http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?historyid=ab98>

<http://www.ancient.eu/Greek_Pottery/>

<http://quatr.us/romans/art/ars.htm>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ceramics_of_indigenous_peoples_of_the_Americas>

<http://www.cumi-murugappa.com/useful-articles/industrial-ceramics-products.html>