



HOME HOBBIES AWARD



PROJECT: POTTERY

GOALS

- A. GATHER SUPPLIES:** Gather supplies needed for a pottery project.
- B. POTTERY CHALLENGE:** Complete one air-dry pottery project.

A. GATHER SUPPLIES

Gather all of your supplies and purchase or create your own air dry clay.

Supply List

- air-dry clay or paper clay or make your own (see below)
- clay mat, or rigid work surface (of acrylic, glass, marble etc), or wax paper
- rolling pin
- fine grain sand paper
- sand paper holder
- interior craft varnish
- cutting tool, shaping tools (popsicle sticks, dull knife).
- water
- objects to make imprint patterns on the object (leaves, textured paper, etc).
- Optional:* decorative paints (acrylic), glazing medium

FUN FACT: True clay is gathered from a thick layer of ground soil.

Air-Dry Clay Recipe

- 1 cup cornstarch
- 2 cups baking soda
- ¼ cups cold water

1. Heat on medium stirring until thick. Remove and put on wax paper to cool.
2. Work with hands for five minutes.

NOTE: Will not dry as fast as store bought air dry clays.

FUN FACT: True pottery becomes nearly indestructible through being fired in a kiln, which heats over 1800° F.

B. POTTERY CHALLENGE

Choose a project to create and go through the following steps.

Project Ideas

- decorative plate
- bowl
- sculpture
- cup or mug

FUN FACT: Archeologists use pottery or pottery shards to learn about ancient cities' habits, culture, and date they existed.

Step 1—Prepare the Clay

- Wet your hands a little and kneed the clay until soft. If the clay is dry, add a little water and microwave for a few seconds (careful—don't overheat!).
- Only soften enough clay for your current project.
- If doing a flat project such as a plate or thin sculpture, roll out the clay with a rolling pin to about 1/4 inch thick.



☐ **Step 2—Shape Your Project**

- Shape your project using a popsicle stick or dull knife, hands, and a little water.
- *Plate Tips:* You can use a current object similar to what you are making as a template. Once you have your shape, feel free to add prints for texture (leaves, textured paper, lace).
- *Bowl Tips:* Place a round piece of clay flattened to 1/8-1/4 inch inside a bowl line with wax paper. Gravity will pull it to the rounded shape. Leave it to dry in its “mold.”

☐ **Step 3—Allow Project to Dry**

Store-bought clay:

- Typically takes one day to dry.
- If object is in mold, turn upside down to see if it is ready.

Homemade clay:

- May take from two days up to a week to fully harden.

FUN FACT: Many potters will use a wheel, throwing a lump of clay on a rotating table, and allowing the rotational pull to help shape the object. A really good potter can make one pot a minute on a wheel.

☐ **Step 4—Sand and Smooth**

- Use fine sandpaper to smooth unwanted rough edges, taking care not to remove any intentional texture.
- If you want to add a carved design, gently add the shape using a sharp object.

☐ **Step 5 Optional—Color and Seal**

- Mix desired acrylic paint with glaze.
- Wipe paint/glaze mixture on with a sponge.
- Let the paint dry, then cover with craft varnish.
- If you want to seal it without painting it, just apply the varnish.

RESEARCH MORE

- Look up pottery projects at *FamilyCircle.com* or *Crafts.Creativebug.com*.
- *The Kids 'N' Clay Ceramics Book* by Kevine Nierman et al.
- *The Children's Book of Pottery* by Christine Rowe
- *250 Tips, Techniques, and Trade Secrets for Potters* by Jacqui Atkin
- *The Potter's Bible* by Marilyn Scott

My child has successfully completed the Project Goals for the topic—Pottery.

Adult Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Complete SIX projects to earn your HOBBIES award)