

Native American Heritage Day in a Box

Create Your Own Pinch Pot

History

Indigenous tribes have made pottery for thousands of years. The pinch pot can be traced back to the Cherokee people of the South-Eastern United States. Pinch pots were created to hold seeds and grains, water, and other natural resources usually to aid in farming. As tribes died off or were removed from their ancestral land, Indigenous pottery making has decreased. Some tribes found a commercial market for their ceramic pieces, thereby ensuring the continuation of their craft to this day.

Tips for Creating

- Each student should get a 1 lb lump of air-dry clay.
- Clay hardens overnight and dries out, so wrap tightly in plastic if you need to take a break.
- Move clay gently. If you push too hard you may break or damage the clay.
- Make sure you are working on a non-stick surface, your paper plate.
- Our hands take moisture out of clay. Dipping hands in water, or moistening hands with a wet paper towel, can help clay from becoming too difficult to work with.
- You can decorate clay before it dries by using a sharpened pencil.
- You can paint clay after it has fully dried overnight.

Additional Pinch Pot making tips from the Shawnee Cultural Center can be found on our website.

Instructions

