

1st Grade - Heart-Shaped Dish

(two-part lesson)

Part 1

Lesson Objectives

Students will be introduced to hand building and the clay rolling method to roll out a clay slab. They will manipulate the clay using gross motor skills involving the larger muscles in the arms as they roll out the clay. They will learn how to cut a shape out of a slab and how to apply a texture to the clay.

Vocabulary

- *Pottery*: Vessels like bowls, jugs and other objects made from clay.
- *Hand building*: Using hands, fingers and simple tools to shape clay.
- *Clay Slab*: Clay that has been rolled out flat.
- *Texture*: The feel or appearance of a surface.
- *Greenware or Boneware*: Unfired clay projects.
- *Bone Dry*: Completely air-dried clay.
- *Bisqueware*: Clay projects that have been fired once, without glaze.
- *Kiln*: An oven used for firing clay.
- *Fire*: To heat clay in a kiln.
- *Glaze*: Paint used to color clay; glaze turns to glass when fired in a kiln.

Project Supplies – 1st class

All project supplies should be in the supply room on the clay shelves.

- Canvas table cloths (for white clay; one for each table)
- Wire cutter (to cut the clay block)
- White clay – ½" slab from a clay block per student
- Rolling pins (one per student)
- Clay rulers (2 per student)
- Bamboo skewers (one per student)
- Cloth doilies (shared between students)
- Paper and pencils from classroom
- A paper bowl each



Lesson Summary:

Step 1: Roll out a slab.

Step 2: Trace then cut out a heart shape.

Step 2: Add doily texture.

Step 3: Form into a dish shape.

Step 4: Place in a bowl.

Instructions – 1st class

Play the step-by-step lesson video below during your class to assist you with the steps.

[Step-by-step lesson video](#)

(This video is also available to access via the Art Docent page on the PTSA site)

1. Have students practice drawing a big heart shape on a piece of paper.
2. Hand out the slabs and instruct students to place rulers either side of the clay slab and roll out the clay until it is the thickness of the rulers. Instruct students to roll one direction, then pick up the clay slab and turn it around, then roll again to make the square clay piece bigger.

Rolling multiple ways is important because it will help avoid cracks as the clay dries. It is also important to roll the clay down to the thickness of the rulers and not below this height. Thin clay will dry out too fast and can cause cracks.

3. Instruct students to lightly draw the shape of a heart on their clay slab using their finger. This will leave a slight impression of a heart shape on the clay. They should make the heart as big as possible. Check that each student's heart is as big as the clay slab they have (assist if necessary – this is important because if they end up with a small heart they will only be able to make a tile and not a dish).
4. Instruct students to use a bamboo skewer to lightly trace over their heart shape impression that they made with their finger.
5. When they are happy with that, have students carefully cut out the clay heart with the bamboo skewer. Instruct students to gently smooth out any clay crumbs on the edge of their clay heart.
6. Instruct students to write their FIRST name and LAST initial on the clay heart and then turn it over (make sure the name is clear - give help if needed).
7. Instruct students to add texture by GENTLY rolling a doily over the clay heart. They should take care not to affect the thickness of the clay.
8. Have students gently pinch the point of the clay heart and bring up the sides of the clay a bit to make a shallow dish. If they would like it to hang on the wall instead they can punch a hole through it (using a bamboo skewer) so it can be hung flat. Ensure the hole is not too close to the edge.

9. Instruct students to place the heart-shaped clay piece into a paper bowl. They will dry out into a shallow bowl shape on the kiln shelves for about 3 weeks before being fired in the kiln. Attach a clay log sheet to the kiln shelves with the heart-shaped dishes. If students decided to make a tile, they can place those into a cardboard box so they dry flat instead. Remember to attach a clay log sheet to the cardboard box as well.

Clean-up Instructions

1. **Make sure to securely tie leftover clay.** To avoid hardening of the clay, ensure to tie the clay blocks or any leftover clay properly. Remove as much air as possible from the bag first.
2. **Remove cloth tablecloths** - Carefully remove excess clay bits from the cloth canvas table cloths and put this in the trash, then fold the cloth canvas tablecloths in on themselves to avoid letting clay dust into the air or on the floor. Store them back in the correct plastic tub just inside the supply room (red clay tub or white clay tub).
3. **Wipe off the table with a wet rag** - if you cannot find a rag please ask the janitor.
4. **Do not allow students to wash their hands in the sink directly-** Keep a bucket of water near the sink and have each child wash in the bucket first and then in the sink. If the clay settles at the bottom of the sink, it will clog the drain.
5. **Clean all the tools used in the bucket-** Make sure to clean all the tools used for the project in the bucket first and then in the sink.
6. **Leave the bucket of clay water overnight to settle** - After the clay settles in the bucket, discard the water carefully in the sink without disturbing the settled clay at the bottom of the bucket. This clay can be either used as a slip or be discarded in the trash. This does not have to happen the next day, but should be done ASAP.
7. *****DON'T FORGET TO LOCK UP THE KILN CAGE AND RETURN THE KEY TO THE FRONT OFFICE!!*****

TIPS

Docents are welcome to practice making a heart-shaped dish prior to teaching. Save your creation in case there are any absent children the day of the class.

Students will have a follow-up class to glaze their heart-shaped dish at least one month after this class is completed. Ensure this class is scheduled with your teacher and ensure that your teacher has booked the STEAM lab in advance.

Clay log sheets to attach to class cardboard boxes can be found in the front of the blue Clay Lesson Plans folder on the clay shelves in the supply room.

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Part II

Once the heart-shaped dishes have been fired in the kiln, they are ready to be glazed.

Glaze Supplies – 2nd Class

- Paper towels
- Fired projects
- Glaze colors (one color for each table)
- Cups or trays for glaze
- BLUE glaze brushes
- Samples of glazed projects (in the supply room)

Instructions – 2nd class

1. Set out paper towels, BLUE glaze brushes and two cups of ONE color per table. Start with about ¼” of glaze per cup. If you can find some scraps of paper in the supply room, a similar color to how the glaze will look after being fired, place those scraps of paper on the tables so that students understand which color is at each table.
2. Show examples of glazed heart-shaped dishes (samples may be found in the supply room).
3. Instruct students to place their heart-shaped dish on a paper towel and to not lift it from the towel when glazing.
4. They should rotate the towel as needed to glaze the INSIDE of the heart-shaped dish. The bottom and sides of the dish should not be glazed.
5. Instruct students that there is one color at each table, and that there are dedicated brushes for each glaze color. **THEY SHOULD NOT MIX GLAZES.** Explain that this is so that any leftover glaze can be reused instead of thrown away. **BRUSHES SHOULD NOT GO FROM TABLE TO TABLE.**
6. Instruct students that they should walk to a different table, holding their heart-shaped dish on a paper towel, if they want to apply a different color.
7. Let students know that if they want a deeper/brighter color, they need to apply multiple layers of the same color. They should let each application dry before applying another layer. Three thin layers of a glaze color is better than one thick layer.
8. Once a glaze color is dry, other colors can be layered on top. Remember that dark colors will prevail. Use black color sparingly or not at all.
9. Explain to students that they **SHOULD NOT GLAZE THE BOTTOM** of the heart-shaped dish because the glaze may stick to the kiln shelves when it is fired.

10. Have students leave their heart-shaped dishes at their places. Art docents should follow important clean-up steps below.

Clean-up Instructions

1. Check the bottom of each heart-shaped dish for glaze. If found, carefully wipe it off with a damp, warm sponge.
2. Place heart-shaped dishes into cardboard boxes (throw away paper towel). Do not stack glazed heart-shaped dishes on top of each other.
3. Fill out a log sheet and attach it to the cardboard box containing the heart-shaped dishes. You may need more than one log sheet if there are multiple boxes. Log sheets can be found in the blue Clay Lesson Plans folder on the clay shelves in the supply room.
4. Place the cardboard box(es) onto the kiln shelves in the kiln cage. The heart-shaped dishes will be fired by the kiln team in 3-5 days once they are dry. They will be available for pickup in the supply room after being fired.
5. Return any unused glaze to the correct jar.
6. When replacing the lid on a glaze jar, make sure the rim is clean; wipe it with a damp paper towel or sponge. Otherwise the jar may glue shut. If you come across a stuck jar, run the lid under hot water to loosen it.
7. *****DON'T FORGET TO LOCK UP THE KILN CAGE AND RETURN THE KEY TO THE FRONT OFFICE!!*****