

# 08\_Introduction to Wheel Throwing

Content Area: **Art**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Semester**  
Length: **2 Weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## **General Overview, Course Description or Course Philosophy**

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The Ceramics course is a one semester course designed to offer the students an understanding of the history of ceramics, while giving them an introduction to the fundamentals of hand building and wheel throwing. This is designed to be a hands on learning experience. Emphasis will be placed on the design elements and principles of line, shape, space, texture, and color. Focus will be on hand building methods and techniques including press, pinch, coil and slab. While students will be introduced to building with clay, the craft of wheel thrown pottery will be studied on a limited basis. Additionally, the course will include an examination of clay, glaze, decoration methods, and the firing process. Students will have the opportunity to engage in team work, design, creative problem solving, and critical thinking skills.

## **OBJECTIVES, ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS, ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS**

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Objective(s):

- Students will experience throwing pottery, the process from the time the clay touches the wheel to the time the wheel is stopped.
- Students will learn that to "throw the clay" means to bend it between your finger joints.

Enduring Understanding:

- Artists and designers experiment with forms, structures, materials, concepts, media, and art-making approaches.
- Artists and designers balance experimentation and safety, freedom and responsibility while developing and creating artworks.
- People create and interact with objects, places, and design that define, shape, enhance, and empower their lives.

Essential Question(s):

- How do artists work?
- How do artists and designers determine whether a particular direction in their work is effective?
- How do artists and designers learn from trial and error?
- How do artists and designers care for and maintain materials, tools, and equipment?
- Why is it important for safety and health to understand and follow correct procedures in handling materials, tools, and equipment?
- What responsibilities come with the freedom to create? How do objects, places, and design shape lives and communities?
- How do artists and designers determine goals for designing or redesigning objects, places, or systems?
- How do artists and designers create works of art or design that effectively communicate?

## **CONTENT AREA STANDARDS**

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Anchor Standard 2: Organizing and developing ideas.

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- a. Engage in making a work of art or design without having a preconceived plan.
- b. Explain how traditional and nontraditional materials may impact human health and the environment and demonstrate safe handling of materials, tools, and equipment.

## **RELATED STANDARDS (Technology, 21st Century Life & Careers, ELA Companion Standards are Required)**

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## **STUDENT LEARNING TARGETS**

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### **Declarative Knowledge**

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Students will understand that:

- The position of your hands and fingers is important in throwing clay since the discrepancy is what forces the clay to bend.
- As the potter's hands [move upward](#), the clay is stretched through the bend, with the excess clay being forced upward. This creates the pot's height as well as thinning the walls.
- A potter works to keep the pot's walls uniform in thickness from top to bottom.
- By focusing your attention on the kinetic feel of the [positioning of the hands](#), you are better able to judge the thickness and uniformity of the walls.

### **Procedural Knowledge**

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Students will be able to:

- Throw clay effectively.
- Position the right finger is lower than the left. This is important since the discrepancy is what forces the clay to bend.
- Form clay by [moving your hands upward](#), the clay is stretched through the bend, with the excess clay

being forced upward.

- Create the pot's height as well as thinning the walls.

## **EVIDENCE OF LEARNING**

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### **Alternate Assessments**

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- Projects
- Presentations
- Teacher/Student Conferences

### **Formative Assessments**

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Teacher observation

Teacher feedback and discussions

Wheel throwing performance tasks

Individualized skills assessments

### **Summative Assessments**

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Sketchbook

Reflection

Final Project

Portfolio

Art Show

## **RESOURCES (Instructional, Supplemental, Intervention Materials)**

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<https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/what-is-throwing-on-potters-wheel-2746284>

Pottery Wheel

Slip bucket

Pottery tools

Laminated instructions

Material list

### **INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS**

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Students will learn the importance of having a growth mindset during the wheel throwing process. As pieces develop there will be some unexpected results. Acknowledging failure as a step towards progress and eventual success builds resilience and tenacity in all areas of life.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS & MODIFICATIONS FOR SUBGROUPS**

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See link to Accommodations & Modifications document in course folder.