



## CLAY VESSELS

Many cultures have a rich history of ceramic vessels, which were used for both practical and ceremonial purposes. In this exercise we will create bowls or other vessels using a hand-building technique known as “pinching,” which is probably the most ancient method of shaping clay. Working with clay can be very grounding and therapeutic, and gives one the experience of making something by hand.

**Materials needed:** Natural red clay, cutting wire, newspaper, paper towels, scoring tools.

### Procedure:

1. Each participant will be given a lump of clay to knead. The kneading process is necessary to make sure there are no air bubbles in the clay, which can cause the piece to break while firing. Form the kneaded clay into a ball.
2. Using dry hands, and using the thumbs to begin, press into the clay to create an interior space. From here use the hands to form the desired “vessel” shape. This can be a bowl, a cup, a pitcher, or any other type of vessel that you can come up with.
3. When the shaping is complete, use scoring tools to create designs on the surface of your piece.
4. Allow the pieces to dry completely, on newspaper, before firing.

### Possible learning areas:

Three-dimensional form making, additive sculpture process, pattern making