

# VA Artist Research: Looking at the History of Ceramics

Essential Questions: How and why have cultures through out history created art out of clay? What does a cultures' art communicate about them? How does the purpose of ancient art change over time, from its original use to being viewed as an art object in a museum?

1. Research the ceramic work of an ancient culture from any part of the world. Use the internet and at least 2 books from the library.

2. Write a paper that:

Describes the types and purposes of ceramics produced and the methods and materials used to create them.

After carefully examining the examples of clay artwork from the culture, conclude your paper with a description of what ideas these artworks communicate about the culture.

- How are the messages they communicate today different from what they communicated in their time and place of origin?
- How are they similar?

## STEPS TO GETTING STARTED:

1. **Brainstorm a list of ancient cultures** that your are interested in learning more about.
2. **Begin researching** on the internet (use the artyclopedia link on my website) And looking at books in 201.

3. **Write an outline:**

- I. Culture you are researching- Country and time period
- II. Describe the ceramic ware of a specific time period in this ancient culture
  - a. Include a description of the types of forms and how they were made (materials, techniques, etc.)
  - b. Are they functional or sculptural? What was it used for?
  - c. Geometric or organic? What is the object? (animal, person, god, pottery, etc.)
  - d. Describe the color and pattern of the work.
  - e. How big is it?
- III. Describe the ideas this artwork communicates about the culture.
  - a. How are the messages they communicate today different from what they communicated in their time and place of origin?
  - b. How are they similar?
- IV. What is the most interesting thing you learned about this culture and the ceramic work they created?
  - a. Why is it interesting to you?
  - b. If you were to create your own ceramic art work inspired by the work you researched, what would you create? What inspiration would you take from the work you researched? What would you change or add to make it your own?