


Collaborative Bowls

Objective: Working in small groups, students will create a functional set of bowls.

Grade Level		Medium	Making Connections	Elements & Principles	National Standards
K-2	3-5		Bernard Leach	Form Unity	VA:Cr2.1.1Ia
MS	HS		Kate Maury Johnson Tsang		VA:Re8.1.1Ia VA:Cn10.1.1Ia



Materials

- Sketch Paper
- Clay
- Glaze
- Book *500 Bowls* by Lark Crafts (recommended)

Introductory Activities

- Show students a variety of well-known ceramicists.
- Show examples of dinnerware sets or bowls.
- Discuss glazes and possible sculptural elements.
- Discuss features of bowls such as the shape, function, and foot.

1 Design

Divide the class into groups. Have each group create a detailed plan for a set of bowls including shape, style, and glaze choices. This drawn and written guide will help students create a uniform set of dinnerware bowls. Groups will need to discuss ways to add variety while maintaining unity, perhaps through the creation of a theme or color scheme.

2 Create Bowls

Students will need to work closely with their peers in order to stay focused during work time and should compare the progress of their pieces as they create. Encourage the students to take measurements and refer to the guides that the groups created often.

3 Glaze

After construction, have the groups continue to consult regarding their glaze choices. Glaze application will need to be discussed among the groups and will present another opportunity to work together to make creative decisions. Upon completion, host a snack day after the bowls are fired to highlight the functional nature of the work!



Insider Tips

- Students could also create sets of cups or plates. You could have students vote on which types of vessels they'd like to create.
- If you have extra materials, early finishers could create matching cups.