



Girls Do Science!

Activity Book



Created by Current Scientists
for Future Scientists

Title of Activity: Pottery Decoration with Trash?!

Created by: Florida Museum of Natural History Ceramic Technology Lab

Target Age Group: Grades K-5

Target Setting: Individual or Group

Time: 30 minutes

Objective: Florida's early Native people decorated pottery with tools they found or made from nature. Sometimes they used what was left over after cooking, like clam shells, animal bones and corncobs. Archaeologists use the ancient pottery that they find to learn more about what people who made it ate. What is left over after you've eaten a meal? Can it be used as a pottery tool, to draw lines, make shapes or a pattern in clay as a record of what you eat?

Materials:

- Modeling clay or dough
- Decorating tools: Almost anything! Clean, dry food leftovers like corncobs, chicken bones, nut shells, bottle caps, twist ties, packaging, straws, toothpicks

Directions:

1. Take a ball of clay or dough about the size of your fist and poke a hole in it with your thumb.
2. With your thumb on the inside and fingers on the outside, gently pinch around until you've made a bowl shape.
3. Pick your tool or tools and start decorating! Which tools work best to draw, to poke or to press a design?
4. Set your pot aside to dry if you wish to keep it.
5. Think about what an archaeologist could say about your food if they found your pot hundreds of years from now.

Extra Resources:

For examples of pottery found in Florida, visit:

www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/ceramiclab/pottery-types-gallery

To read more about and see pictures of how people made pottery in the past, check out:

www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/ceramiclab/blog/category/clay-chronicles

The logo features the text "NEA Big Read Alachua County" in a white serif font. The letters "B" and "R" in "Big Read" are significantly larger than the other letters. Small leaf icons are placed above the "B" and "R".

NEA **Big Read**
Alachua County

The logo includes a stylized white icon of an open book on the left. To its right, the text "Alachua County LIBRARY District" is written in a white serif font, with "LIBRARY" in all caps.

Alachua County
LIBRARY District

The logo consists of a large, stylized white letter "F" on the left, followed by the text "FLORIDA MUSEUM" in a white sans-serif font. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the end of the word "MUSEUM".

F FLORIDA
MUSEUM®

The logo features the text "NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS" in a white sans-serif font, with "for the" in a smaller font size. Below this is a stylized white icon of an open book, followed by the text "BIG READ" in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. Underneath "BIG READ" is the text "Managed by Arts Midwest" and the website address "arts.gov/neabigread" in a smaller white sans-serif font.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the **ARTS**
 **BIG READ**
Managed by Arts Midwest
arts.gov/neabigread

NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.