



Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art

Start with Art

Ancient Greece

IT'S GREEK TO ME!

Build a Lekythos:

OK PASS (listed for 6th grade but applicable to additional grade levels): VA 3.1-2, 3.5, 4.3

1. Observe and study the classical pottery at the Museum.



2. Knead the clay on a clean, dry surface to soften. Caution! Some red clay stains clothing and surfaces. Aprons and paper-covered surfaces are recommended.

3. When clay is soft, divide in half. Set one half aside.
4. Divide one-half into two parts (roughly ¼ pound). Roll each part into a ball.



5. Create a pinch pot from each ball by inserting your thumb into the center of the ball and pinching the sides while rotating the ball. We recommend that the walls and bottom of the pot are ¼" thick. The bottoms of the pots should remain rounded—do not flatten. Both pots should be about the same size.



6. With a tool, score the top of each pot (the lip) and moisten with water. Press the two pots together to form a hollow container or ball. Score the joint, moisten with water, and smooth so the joint disappears. This is the body of your pot-it should feel firm and air-tight. Check for and repair any weak areas.



7. You will use the remaining clay to form a base, a spout, and handle(s). The base and handle should be formed by rolling out coils (snakes). The spout should be formed in the same manner as a pinch pot, except that you poke your thumb all the way through the ball.



8. Score and moisten each element and attach to the body, smoothing away all joints.
9. Use a pointed tool to poke through the spout into the body. Smooth the walls and joint to create a seamless transition.



10. Air dry your pot or bake according to the clay manufacturer's directions.
11. Use paint and markers on your lekythos to create Greek designs inspired by objects in the MGMOA collection and Greek mythology.