

Mimbres Coil Dish

The Mimbres culture was relatively isolated group of people who lived in southwestern New Mexico and eastern Arizona from 1050-1150 AD. Approximately 10,000 ceramic bowls have been unearthed from the Mimbres culture, and the pottery survived because it was a Mimbres custom to bury their deceased beneath the floor of a house along with one or more bowls. The pots were made using coils of local earthenware, formed into a fired clay base, and scraped smooth.

There were three main categories that Mimbres iconography depicts on these bowls: animals encountered in daily life, people in daily routines, or geometric designs.

To begin, you will create a list of 10 items in each of these three categories

Animals

1. Turkey
2. Mosquitos
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

People in Daily Routines

1. Hunting
2. Ceremonial Rituals
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

Geometric Designs

1. Triangles
2. Circles
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

Draw two thumbnail sketches of your two favorite words in each category (Use six small circles). Then pick your favorite and draw it three ways: Centered, Cropped, Off-centered/enhanced. Choose your favorite. Can you add anything else to it? Lines (dash, zig zig, dots, etc.) are a great way to fill too much negative space.

A coil pot is made of layers of rolled coils. Just as the Mimbres Native Americans did, you will be making a shallow bowl made of coils, decorated with a sacred image.

1. Wedge your clay. Choose a bisque bowl for an armature - it must be clean & dry.
2. Roll coils using the table and the palms of your hands and fingers. Start rolling in the center of the coil, using the entire length of your hand. Slowly move your hands out to the ends of the coil as you are rolling and the coil will get longer and thinner. Keep rolling until your coil is about 3/8" thick (about the size of your pinky).
3. Paint pre-made slip on the top and bottom sides of a coil. We don't have to score the coils if we use pre-made slip. Using slip only, however, does make the joint fragile. You must make sure to press them together well. Additional strength will come when we scrape the coils together.
4. Begin in the center of the bowl with a spiral. Use up the entire coil and then make another. Add them until the bowl is full. Add wet paper towel and wrap in plastic to store it overnight.
5. Using your fingers, begin smoothing the coils together on the inside of the bowl. Always scrape from the outside to the center, pressing the coils together. When it is smooth, use a rubber rib to even the surface out.
6. Now do the same smoothing on the outside. Place your bowl on the back of the armature for support. You may not be able to press on the very center, if it doesn't fit your armature on the outside. Put your name on it.
7. Set your bowl on the table. Trim the lip evenly using a ruler. Hold the ruler upright on the table. Find the lowest point. Now make marks all the way around at this height. Connect the marks together around the bowl and trim. Smooth the lip.
8. After your bowl has set for 1-2 days, and is leather hard, paint a layer of white slip on the inside only. Sit in the damp cabinet with no plastic. Make sure you have dry paper towel on your board, so it will not stick.
9. The next day, paint another layer on. Put your piece back in the damp cabinet until it is showing signs of being dry. It is very important to dry slowly, or it may crack.
10. When bone dry, do not sand, or you will get red dust on your nice white surface. Bisque fire.
11. After bisque, draw your design on in pencil. Then paint it with black underglaze. You can use a brush or the needle tip bottles. Glaze Fire.
12. Brush overglaze on the inside only, or inside and outside. Fire again final Glaze Fire.

MIMBRES COIL POT CRITIQUE

QUESTIONS	Write your ideas here. Give first impressions. Make guesses. Say what you see, do not say what you like or don't like. Describe, analyze, and interpret.
What stands out the most when you first look at this piece of artwork?	
Explain the reason you noticed the thing you mentioned above	
As you keep looking, what else seems important?	
Why does the thing you mention above seem important?	
What leads your eye around from place to place?	
Imagine the feelings and meaning this artwork represents. What are they?	
What titles could you give this artwork?	
What other things interest you about this artwork?	

CERAMICS I - MIMBRES RUBRIC

category	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points
CONCEPT	It appears that little design planning and reasoning has been done, student paid no attention to the Mimbres design.	Student had an idea in mind when starting the piece, but never thought the details through or sketched it out.	Artist thought about the project and sketched out their complete idea based on the Mimbres design and executed it in a successful way.	Artist brainstormed several project ideas, selected the best idea for their project and executed it in a completely successful way.
COMPOSITION (design)	The Composition is weak. Mimbres design composition and balance are not present. Additional work is needed.	The composition is not strong. The design and construction were planned, but not executed well/might not reminiscent of Mimbres designs	The overall composition is good. The design was planned and executed well, and is reminiscent of Mimbres designs.	The overall painted design is strong. The design was carefully planned, and executed strongly. The piece is balanced, & reminiscent of the Mimbres designs.
CRAFTSMANSHIP	Craftmanship is very poor. Project looks sloppy and inconsistent and uneven. Project is broken or contains large cracks.	The item has several Flaws that detract from the overall look. Can still see where coils were used and bowl is not smooth and finished.	The project shows that the creator took pride in his/her work. The item has a few flaws but these do not detract from the overall look.	The project shows that the artist took great pride in their work. Student took the time to create a smooth, finalized piece.
CREATIVITY	Student was not very creative, created the simplest solution to the problem. Bowl contains larger areas of white space/unglazed portions.	Design is an original idea, but could have been pushed quite a bit further. Student did not put forth their best effort.	The project is an original idea and the artist did a nice job of updating a design on a Mimbres Pot.	The project is an original idea and the artist used creative solutions to resolve the idea of creating a modern interpretation of the Mimbres Pot.
Effort	Student did not try in class/Student missed several class periods & didn't make up the work time/Student was working on other things instead of the assignment	Student tried most days in class, but needed reminder(s) to stay on task	Student worked consistently every day and kept their area neat & clean	Student came to class and worked hard every day. Student asked for help/advice and always cleaned up after themselves

/20 POINTS