



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# POTTERS

Tomorrow is going to be a great day. We are going to the Museum of History to explore how ancient settlers lived. The teacher has divided us into groups and assigned each group a different area to focus on: metallurgy (metals), pottery (ceramics), goldsmithing (gold and jewelry), and furs (leather).



My friend, Pablo, and I are in the pottery group. It is exciting to study how objects were made from mud or clay to use in everyday life thousands of years ago.

The day before the visit, the teacher gave us several reference websites to investigate online about our assigned topic. Pablo and I met at my house and prepared a brief presentation to share with the rest of our classmates.

Pottery is the art of making objects, such as containers, utensils, and household gadgets, from materials like mud or clay. The decoration of the pottery was quite simple and had very few drawings or decorations on it.



Pottery and ceramics are often confused because both are made of mud or clay. The main difference is that ceramics are usually decorated with colored enamels using a special technique.

To make it easier to make clay and ceramic objects, they developed the potter's wheel, which allowed a potter to manipulate and work with these materials. An extremely hot oven, called a kiln, was also created to bake the object, making it hard.







The first pottery objects date back to the Upper Paleolithic period. They used symbols of gods and goddesses on the pottery because they believed that those symbols would help them and protect them in their lives. The fertility goddess, for example, would bring more children into the world.



During the Neolithic period, modeling with clay and ceramic objects greatly improved. They began to make containers and vases with empty areas. With this new technique, the evolution in the kitchen came because they could use these containers for cooking their food over a fire.



Since the Neolithic period, some villages have used this same method for hundreds of years. These types of containers were used for cooking, storing things, keeping grains or other foods, and even burying.



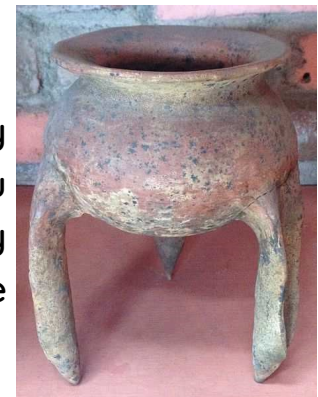
Gradually, they began to decorate these jars and vases with assorted colors and images of plants, humans, or animals. The ones that Paul and I liked most were ones found in Greece and Italy dating back thousands of years ago.



Other villages used pottery to make pipes to direct water to various parts of the city in a simple, safe, and clean way.



Some villages around America used molds to create many vessels in less time. American civilizations found in Peru and Mexico added legs to the vessels for better stability and durability. Some made grooves and incisions inside vessels to grind chili, cocoa, and other seasonings.







Nowadays, the number of potters has decreased because so much of the pottery we use today is made in factories by machines rather than being handmade. Despite this, potters can still be found scattered around various places in the world following the same techniques and traditions of the past.



If you stop to think about it, the creation and use of pottery allowed people long ago to live better and has improved our lives too.



After all the research we have done and the visit to the museum tomorrow, Pablo and I have been talking and are planning to ask our teacher if we could make a container in art class to take home to our families. Hopefully, he will like the idea and let us do it.

Have you ever been to the History Museum where you live? If you have, be sure to look at the pottery when you go back. If you haven't gone yet, ask your family to go and spend a day surrounded by so many interesting works of art.





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ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

1. Have you ever been to the History Museum in your city?

a. Yes. What did you see?

b. No. What would you like to see if you could go?

2. According to the text, what does incisions mean?

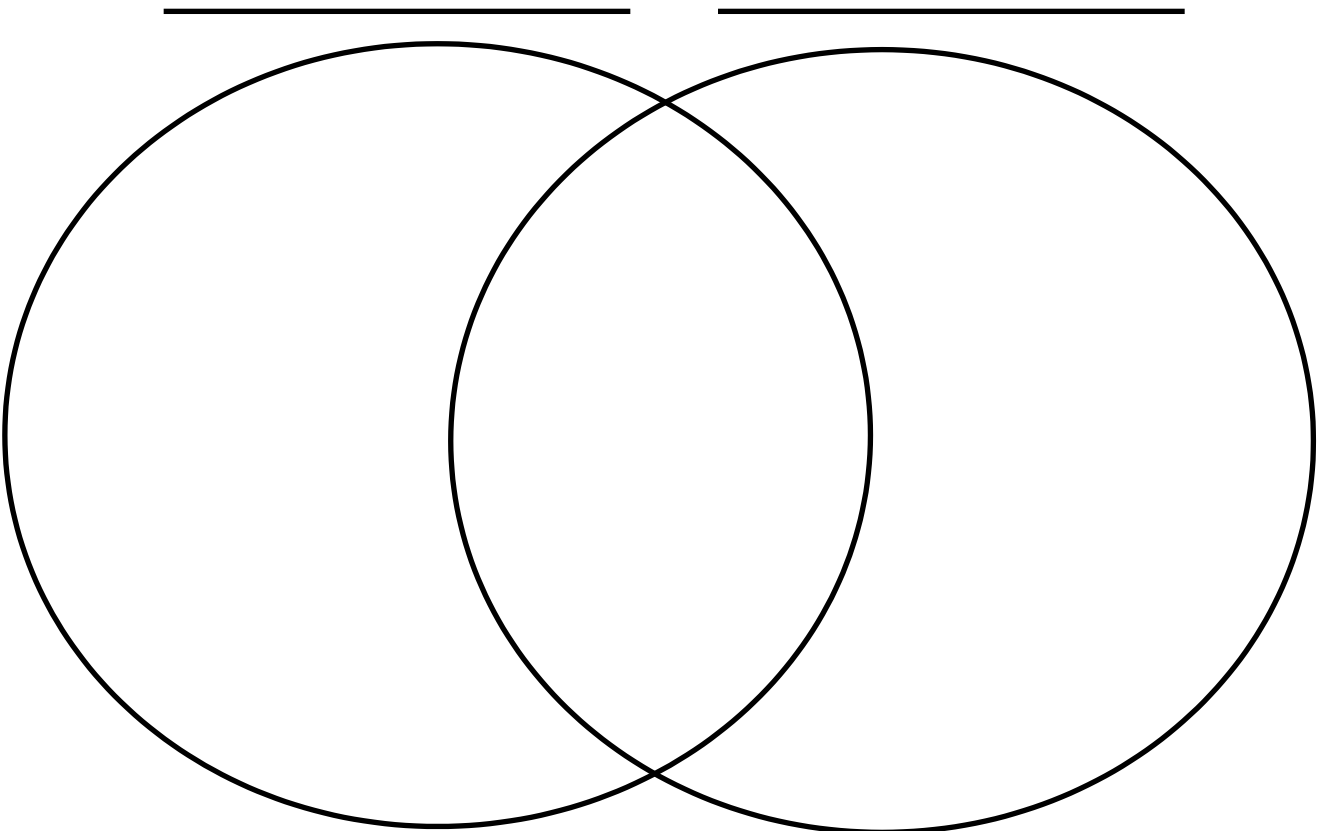
a. grooves or lines

b. vessels

c. stability

d. many years old

3. According to the text, how are pottery and ceramics similar? Use the Venn diagram.







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4. According to the text, in ancient times, pottery was used to \_\_\_\_\_.



- a. store food
- b. bury people
- c. make pipes
- d. all of the above



5. Why was the potter an important profession in ancient times?



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6. Why has the number of potters decreased?



- a. They did not pay enough money.
- b. They must study hard.
- c. People no longer use containers.
- d. Most containers are made by machines.



7. What qualities do you think a potter needs to perform his job well?



- a. patience
- b. delicacy
- c. clumsiness
- d. sincerity



8. If you were a potter, what would you like to make? Why?



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9. What do you think would have happened if there had not been any potters in ancient times?



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10. Design a piece of pottery. Write what it would do, what form and colors would have and for how much you would sell it. Draw it.

My piece would serve to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

It would have the shape of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

It would have the color(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I would sell it for \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

