



The Pottery Process for Beginners

4TH GRADE

CALIFORNIA DESERT PEOPLE



WEDGING

Wedging or Kneading is a step in preparing clay for shaping to remove air and ensure the even distribution of moisture. It is somewhat like kneading dough for bread.



SHAPING

Shaping: forming the clay into shapes by hand building or throwing on a potter's wheel.

LEATHER-HARD

- Leather-Hard is the condition of the when it has been partially dried to the point where all shrinkage has been completed.

BONE DRY

- Bone-Dry is the final stage of the clay when it has dried to a completely dry state and ready to be fired. In this stage, the clay is very fragile, non-plastic and porous. It is also called Greenware at this stage.

BISQUE

- Bisque Fire is the first firing prior to glazing. Bisque is pottery that has been fired but not yet glazed.

GLAZE

- Glazing is coating the bisque with a mixture that will mature to a glassy state when fired.



GLAZE FIRING

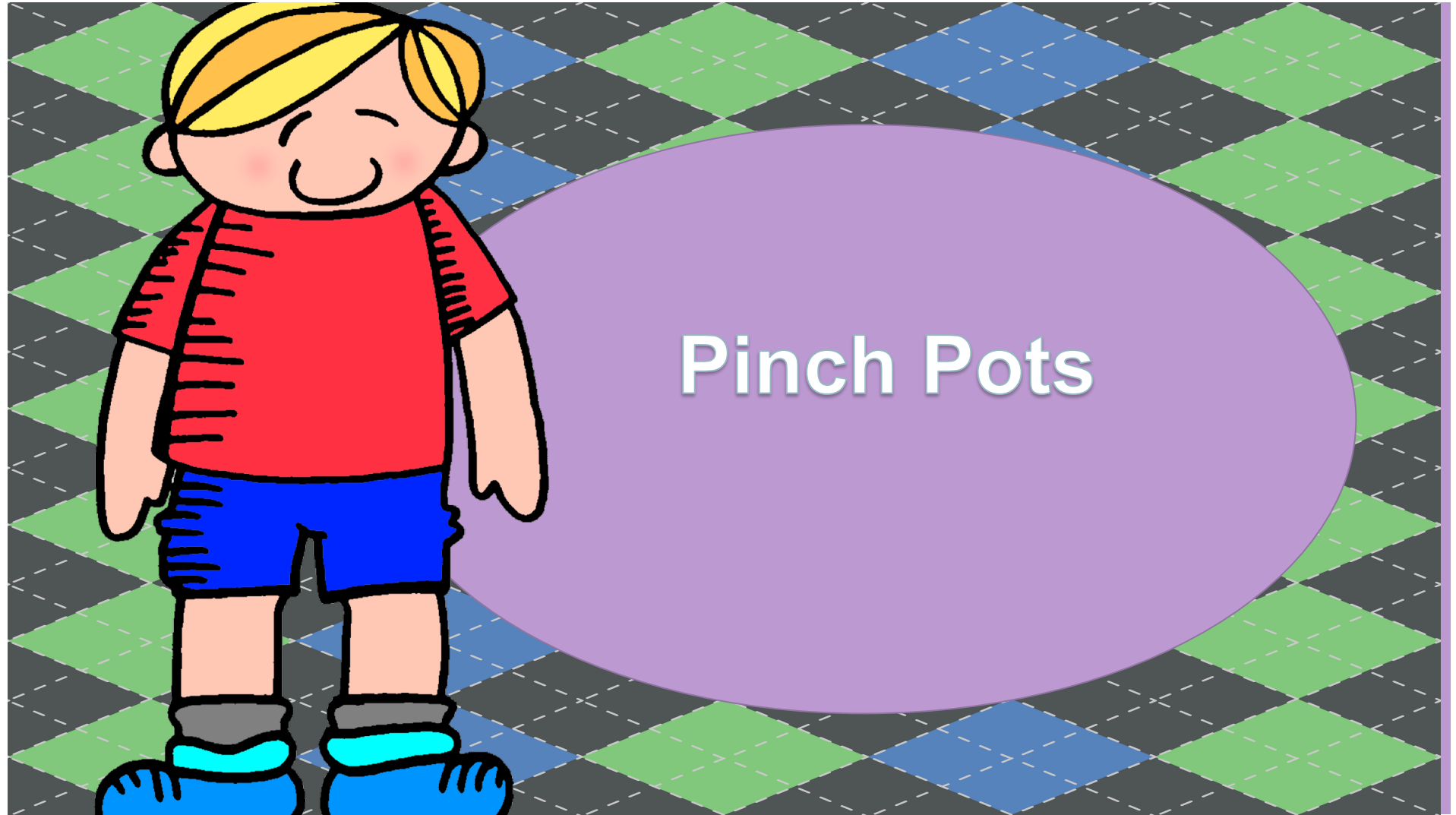
Glaze Firing is a firing cycle in a kiln to the temperature at which the glaze materials will melt to form a glasslike surface coating.



KILN AND FIRING

A Kiln is a furnace for the firing of ceramics. Firing is the process of heating clay pottery in a kiln to bring the glaze or clay to maturity.





Pinch Pots

TIME FOR PINCH POTS!



STEPS FOR A PINCH POT



A piece of clay.



Make it round.



Push in your thumb.



Pinch and turn.



Tap the rim.



Smooth it out.



Sign your name.



You did it!

Good
job!

LEAVE YOUR SIGNED PINCH POT UNDER PLASTIC.

- Pottery should dry slowly. (The plastic helps to prevent cracking.)

CLEAN-UP

- Clean your area.
- Return all tools to their proper place.
- Wipe down your desk.
- Wash your hands.
- Line up to walk out to the pick-up area.



Glazing

Review

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GLAZE CAN BE DIPPED, PAINTED, OR BRUSHED ON TO POTTERY.



**NEVER GLAZE THE BOTTOM OF A POT
THAT WILL BE FIRED IN A KILN.**



SAMPLE GLAZED POTS

