

Puzzle Pots

Pottery is one of the most common artifacts found in archaeological sites here in the United States Southwest. It is almost always found broken. Sometimes the pottery breaks when it was being used hundreds of years ago, and sometimes it breaks while it is buried underground because people or cows walk over it.

There is much to be learned from the form (size and shape) of pottery containers. You can learn about the foods people ate in the past, how they cooked it, how they ate it, and what things they stored in their containers.

Using the clay materials and decorative design elements, archaeologists can study where a piece of pottery was made. This reveals patterns of communication between past artists and traders.

So how do archaeologists predict pottery form (size and shape) from a pile of pieces? Today you will be an archaeologist and think about pottery use and form from a pile of pottery sherds, just like archaeologists do at an excavation and in the laboratory!

Use scissors and glue to put these pieces of pottery back together into full pots.

Follow the steps below to put two pots together

1. Carefully cut the pieces of pottery apart along the edges of the pieces. Start with the pieces for two pots, on the top half of the page. Get help from someone, if you need to. 😊
2. First sort the pieces into piles that belong to each pot. You can use clues to help you. Clues could be color, texture, and design art work on the pieces.
3. Once your pieces are sorted, try putting the pieces together to form complete pots. Like a puzzle!
4. Glue each of your complete pots to the backside of this page.

Glue your two pots here. Label them Pot #1 and Pot #2.

After carefully looking at a collection of pottery sherds, every archaeologist records their observations and thoughts, and looks for similar things in today's world. Now it is your turn 😊

Use the space to write your thoughts to the questions.

Classify your pots. Is it a bowl, jar, plate, pitcher, ladle, or something else?

Pot #1: _____

Pot #2: _____

Based on each pot's form (size and shape), what do you think it was used for?

Pot #1:

Pot #2:

With an adult's help, can you find a pot or tool in the kitchen that has a similar form to the puzzle pots you just glued? What are they called? What is their use?

Kitchen Pot/Tool #1:

Kitchen Pot/Tool #2:

Glue your Challenge three pots here. Label them Pot #1, Pot #2, and Pot #3.

CHALLENGE TIME! Let's try three pots!

Cut, sort, piece the puzzle pots together from the bottom half the page, and glue them on previous page. Then answer the questions below. 😊

Classify your pots. Is it a bowl, jar, plate, pitcher, ladle, or something else?

Pot #1:

Pot #2:

Pot #3:

Based the pots form (size and shape), what do you think was their function/use?

With an adult's help, can you find pots or tools in the kitchen that have a similar form to the puzzle pots you glued? What are they called? What are their uses?

Based on the design on the pots, what can you conclude about the artist's message and skills?

Two Pots



Challenge Pots

