

# Nasco ARTWORKS

Dedicated to Delivery

## Native American Inspired Pouches

Created by Noelle Burns and Michele Seegert  
(Watertown Unified School District, Watertown, WI)

### Grade 4 and Up

#### Outcome

Students will acquire a deep understanding of clay slab construction by creating a Native American inspired pouch, incorporating organic materials.

#### Introduction

Throughout this lesson, students will learn and discuss Native American culture.

#### Objectives

*Students will...*

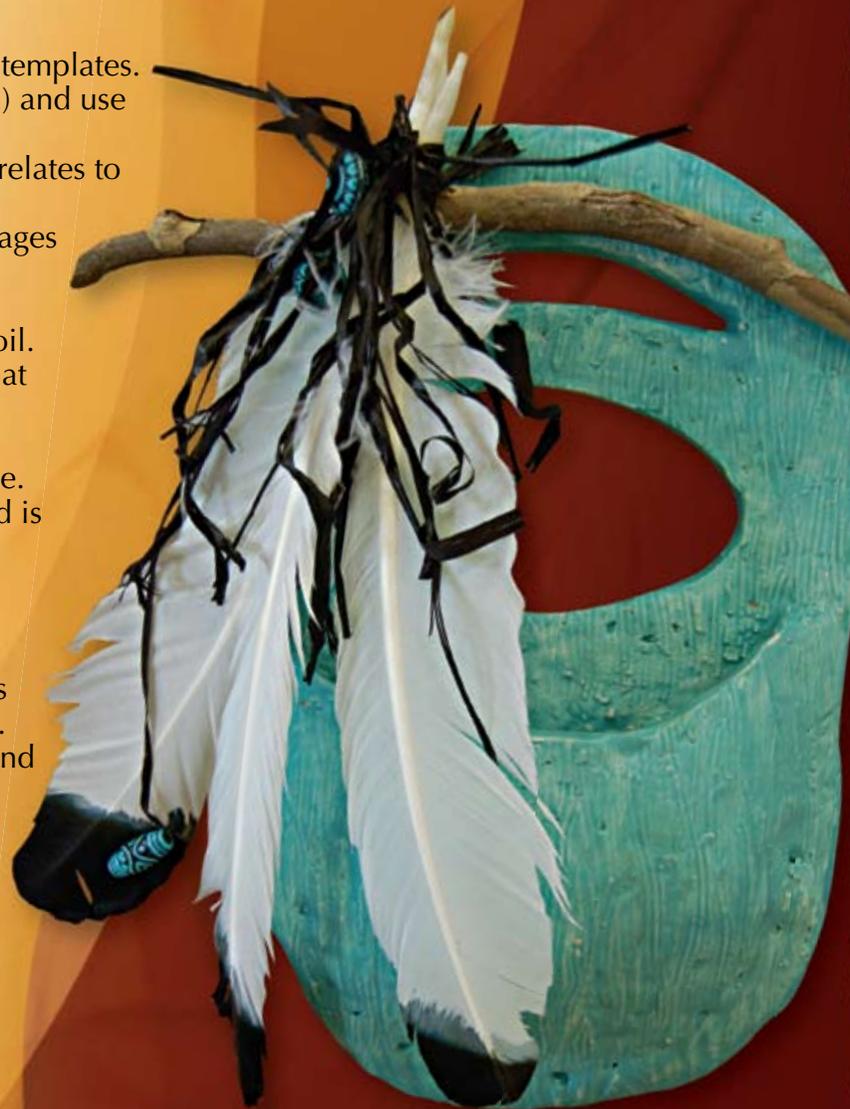
- Understand the process of slab construction using templates.
- Discover the art element texture (rough vs. smooth) and use their organic materials to add natural textures.
- Learn the meaning of organic material and how it relates to Native American culture.
- Become aware of the clay vocabulary: kiln, clay stages (earthenware, bone dry, greenware, bisque ware), fire, cone, glaze.
- Learn that clay is decomposed rock found in the soil.
- Understand that glaze is a liquid applied to clay that is made of silica, color, and texture.
- Glaze pouches and understand that glazes are used to enhance the appearance of a ceramic piece.
- Realize that art can be functional or decorative and is used in everyday life in various cultures.

#### National Standards

*Students will...*

- B.4.3** — Know that works of art and designed objects relate to specific cultures, times, and places.
- C.4.8** — Explore the natural characters of materials and their possibilities and limitations.
- D.4.5** — Learn basic language used in art.
- E.4.1** — Communicate basic ideas by producing studio art forms.
- I.4.5** — Understand that art is made by people from different times, places, and cultures.
- J.4.2** — Understand that the choice of materials and techniques influence the expressive quality of art.
- L.4.5** — Explore nature and designs by artists as sources for new ideas for their artwork.

Sponsored by



## Vocabulary

Glaze

Clay

Wedge

Slab

Clay Stages (earthenware, bone dry, greenware, bisque ware)

Kiln

Fire

Cone

Organic

Texture

Slab Construction

Native American Culture

Score

Slip

Mesh

## Materials List

- Nasco Budget White Sulphite Drawing Paper — pkg. of 500 sheets, each 9" x 12" (Cat. No. 9700924)
- Nasco/General's® Student 2B Drafting Pencils, pkg. of 12 pencils (Cat. No. 9715415C)
- Nasco Soap Erasers, box of 24, each 1" x 1" x 5/8" (Cat. No. 9728737)
- Fiskars® 8" Scissors (Cat. No. 9729185)
- AMACO® No. 25 White Art Clay, moist, 25-lb. carton (Cat. No. 0800241)
- Rolling Pin (Cat. No. W09377)
- Slabbing Strips, set of 8 (Cat. No. 8300141)
- Brent® Slab Roller
- Fettling Knife, soft blade (Cat. No. 4300198)
- 10" Wooden Tool (Cat. No. 4300238)
- AMACO® Kiln
- AMACO® Velvet Underglazes, pints (Cat. Nos. 9727979A-AM)
- AMACO® Liquid Lead-Free Underglaze Decorating Colors, pints (Cat. Nos. 9701426A-AC)
- AMACO® Lead-Free Opalescent Glazes, pints (Cat. Nos. 9300114A-P)
- AMACO® Textured Alligator Glazes, pints (Cat. Nos. 9701464J-AB)
- Royal Brush® Natural-Hair Ceramic Supreme Brushes, set of 6 (Cat. No. 9718963)
- Nasco Natural Feathers Classroom Pack (Cat. No. 9726612)
- Old World Bead Assortment (Cat. No. 9716356)
- Organic Materials (gathered by students; sticks, feathers, corn husks, etc.)

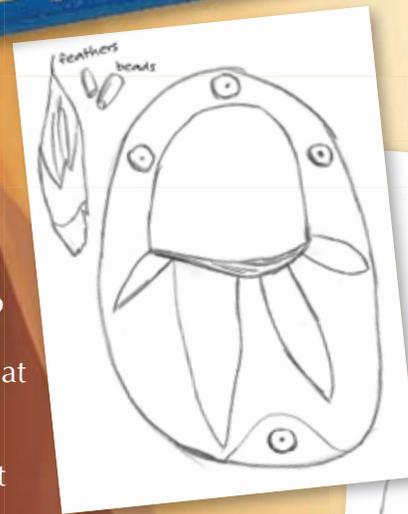


## Art Making Process

### Day 1

Teacher will discuss Native American culture and their use of organic materials from the earth for essential tools and supplies (arrowheads, jewelry, pottery, etc.). Mention right away that students will need to begin bringing in organic materials to incorporate into their pouches. As a class, brainstorm unique organic materials and how they might be incorporated into their pouches (i.e., branches or deer antlers for a handle, sea shells and pine cones for texture, feathers and beads that hang from the bottom, etc.)

After class discussion, create sketches that explore different pouch and handle shapes and display a variety of organic materials integrated. Demonstrate designing a symmetrical template for the front and back sides of their pouch using a compass and protractor for curves. Include a handle or holes in order to hang pouch or organic material.



Sketch Idea



Draw Template



*Roll out slab.*



*Transfer your template to the clay slab.*

## Day 2

Prep clay portions for students and provide clay tools (rolling pins, guide sticks, wedging table or boards with canvas, bags and boards for clay storage, masking tape used for name tags, etc.).

Demonstrate wedging clay for 5 minutes and rolling out slab. For slab rolling, use guide sticks so clay is not thinner than  $\frac{1}{2}$ " or thicker than 1". Also show how to store clay with damp paper towel wrapped in airtight plastic bags.

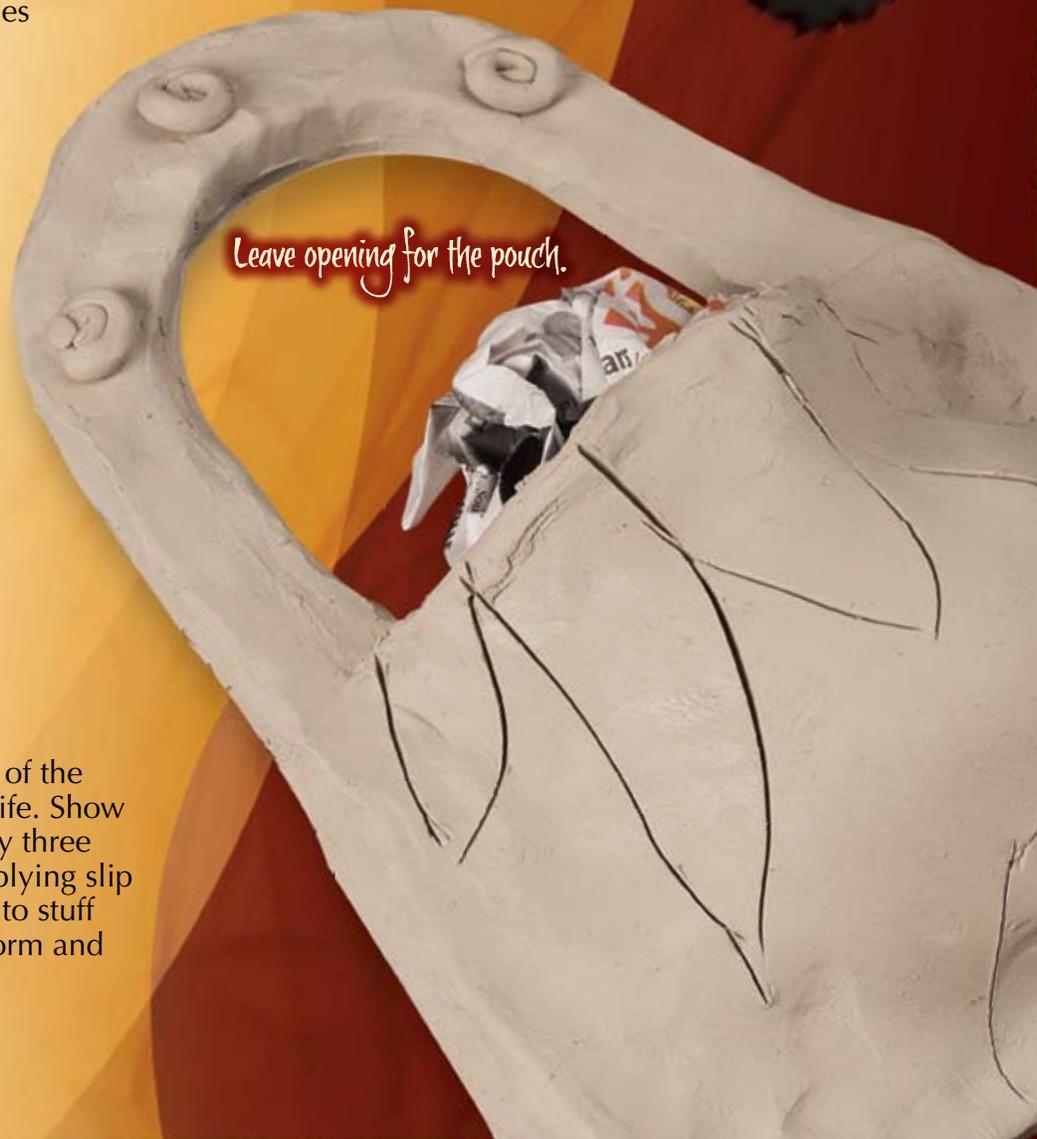
Finish cutting out front and back templates. Hint: Fold drawing in half so that it will be symmetrical/even on both sides. If templates are not symmetrical, pouches will hang lopsided.



*Cut out your pouch.*

## Day 3

Demonstrate cutting the front and back of the pouch using templates and a fettling knife. Show how to attach both sides by scoring only three edges (leave opening for the pouch, applying slip and meshing together). Use newspaper to stuff inside pouch in order to retain pouch form and prevent soft clay from caving in.



*Leave opening for the pouch.*



Glaze pouch.

## Day 4

Use organic materials and other clay tools to apply texture onto pouch. Add any holes necessary for attaching organic materials and hanging. Once fired, apply glazes that enhance the organic nature of the pouch (earth tones, neutrals, etc.).



## Day 5

After firing, attach organic materials to complete the Native American inspired pouches. Display and enjoy the compliments!

## Assessment

- Clay process (slab construction and attachment).
- Idea of creating templates from an original drawing is recognized in the finished product.
- Final pouch product demonstrates understanding of clay construction, idea development, and integrates organic materials, enhancing the quality of art.
- Understands Native American Culture and their use of nature in everyday life and art.
- Craftsmanship
- Effort

**1-800-558-9595**

**View additional Nasco ArtWorks Lesson Plans  
on our website at [eNasco.com/artsandcrafts!](http://eNasco.com/artsandcrafts!)**

**Nasco — Fort Atkinson**  
**901 Janesville Avenue**  
**Fort Atkinson, WI 53538-0901**  
**E-mail: [info@eNasco.com](mailto:info@eNasco.com)**

**Nasco — Modesto**  
**4825 Stoddard Road**  
**Modesto, CA 95356-9318**  
**E-mail: [modesto@eNasco.com](mailto:modesto@eNasco.com)**

**ArtWorks Lesson Plans are developed by teachers with no claim of original authorship.**