Blooming O'Keeffe **Bowls** Christine Kernan

their flower. Students used colored pencil to complete the flowers, and then cut them out. This drawing served as a template to use on the clay.

Template to Clay

with

a discus-

sion of

Georgia

O'Keeffe, her

artwork, and her

very interesting

life. We looked particularly

closely at her paintings of sea-

shells, bones, rocks, and flowers.

The children learned that objects as

insignificant as these could become

influences for powerful works of art.

I explained that we would make a

simple flower drawing and turn it

of art.

t

Drawing

into a functional and beautiful piece

The next step was to hand out pic-

seed catalogs and calendars. After

of flowers that I saved from old

The following class period, each student was given a chunk of white b clay (about 1/4–1/2 lb). I showed them how to roll a slab of clay

The children learned that objects as insignificant as these could become influences for powerful works of art.

to about the thickness of cookie the template with a potter's needle,

and students retraced their lines

on top to serve as a guide, and trace around the edge of the template.



dough and then place the tag-board template on top to serve as a guide. Students traced around the edge of then used a pencil to trace the inside details.

The template was then removed

students each chose one to their liking, they used a tag-board circle as a

2. *Students roll a slab of clay to the* thickness of cookie dough



fired them. During the final class, we glazed the flowers in gorgeous bright colors. I made sure students used three coats of glaze for each color. The results would have made Georgia O'Keeffe proud! The children gave them as gifts on

Mother's Day. 👁

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WISCONSIN STANDARD

Students will explore nature and designs by artists as sources for ideas in their artwork.

NATIONAL STANDARD

the students to not Students explore and understand press too deeply into prospective content for art. cracking while drying.

once again with a

pencil to enhance

the detail. I advised

the clay to avoid

Clay to Mold

I then passed out

4. To ensure the student's details are

included, use a pencil to trace the

completed.

inside details

shallow Styrofoam

soup bowls to serve as

WEB LINK

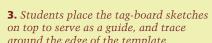
www.okeeffemuseum.org

molds for the flowers. I emphasized to students that they needed to gently press the flower in to conform to the shape of the bowl in order to get an even bottom that wouldn't be unbalanced or rock when After a few days of dry-5. Remove ing, I removed the flowers template and from the bowls and bisque

retrace lines to enhance detail. Avoid pressing to deeply to ensure the clay does not crack while drying.



template and drew inside it a bird's eve, radially symmetrical, view of



ach year I try to

develop projects

children about

the master artists, but also

aspects of art learning as pos-

encompass as many important

sible. I came up with an idea that

turned out to be a success for my

students of every ability. It relates

with clay, and is influenced by the

work of artist Georgia O'Keeffe.

The studio activity is a blooming

1. Students use a tag-board circle to

draw a simple sketch of the flower.

ceramic flower bowl, completed by

my fifth-graders. The process began

Inspiration

to the exploration of hand-building

that not only teach



Learning Objectives

Students will:

- observe and examine organic shapes as a source for creating art.
- recognize radial symmetry.
- effectively explore slab clay hand building techniques.
- effectively explore glazing techniques.
- utilize basic vocabulary associated with slabbing and glazing.
- study the art and life of Georgia O'Keeffe.

Materials

- reproductions of artworks by Georgia O'Keeffe
- photographs of a variety of types of flowers (from calendars and other sources)
- white earthenware or stoneware clay (could substitute selfhardening clay)
- potter's needles or straightened paper clips
 - small shallow Styrofoam bowls
 - variety of colored glazes for clay
 - tag board for templates
 - canvas or paper mats • rolling
 - pins
 - pencils
 - scissors



6. *After the bowls have* been bisque fired, the students glaze the flower bowls in bright colors.



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