

### ***Materials***

- Paper plate or styrofoam cup
- Utensils to decorate your pottery
- Computer

**1**

Before starting your project, research Prehistoric, or prior to European contact, pottery. This pottery was made by ancient cultures before 1492. For this project, we will be focusing on pottery made in the Americas. What kind of pottery can you find? There were numerous groups of people using different methods of pottery making. Did you know that these cultures dried their pottery by sun exposure or using a fire pit? Nowadays, pottery is fired using a kiln, or a heated enclosure like an oven or furnace.

**2**

Some of the different cultures include the Inca, Anasazi and the Mississippian. Did you find them in your research? Each of them have their own design styles. Can you identify the different patterns? Examples are featured on the next page.

**3**

Have your child choose a culture to inspire their own pottery. Encourage your child to incorporate the different patterns in their paper plate or styrofoam cup pottery without completely copying one of the examples. Try to make a couple using different patterns and then compare the results!



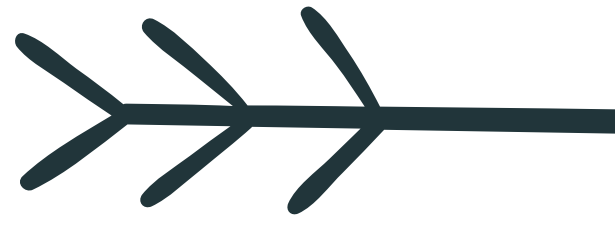
**4**

Share with the MOST the different "pottery" you made! Make sure to tell us what culture inspired you!

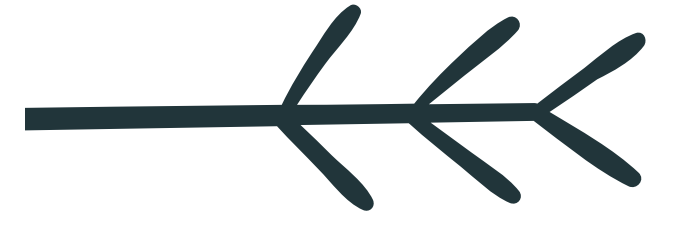


# MOST\*

## ***Prehistoric Pottery***



### ***Prehistoric Pottery Examples***



*Zion Area Info.*

**Anasazi Culture**  
(100-1600 CE)



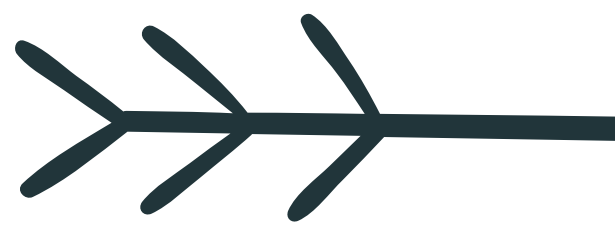
*Hadley-Ives Family Photographs.*

**Mississippian Culture**  
(800-1600 CE)

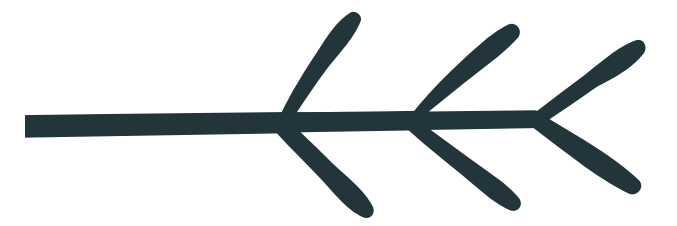


*Museum of Native American History.*

**Inca Empire (12th cent.-1572 CE)**



### ***What Can We Learn From This?***



Archaeologists, or people who study past cultures, can learn a lot about different societies through their pottery. They often ask questions like: what did they use this pottery for? Do the designs they use have cultural significance? Who in their culture made this pottery?

It is difficult to uncover pottery completely in tact and so when Archaeologists excavate, or recover artifacts from the earth, pottery is often in broken shards. Archaeologists then piece those shards together to recreate the original piece of pottery. For added fun, you can cut your pottery into pieces and try to put it back together like an Archaeologist!