



PRESENTS

# KIDSEUM AT HOME

*Creative fun and learning for the entire family,  
all from the comfort of home!*

Introduction

to

EXPLORING  
ANCIENT  
MEXICO

INSPIRED BY

THE EXHIBIT  
CERAMICS OF  
WESTERN MEXICO



# 1

## HOW MAKE PICO DE GALLO

### AGES

7 and up

### SKILL LEVEL

Beginner (may need help from parents)

### DESCRIPTION

For this project you and your family will be making fresh salsa called Pico de Gallo. We are going to give you a simple recipe that you can customize for future salsa making.

### MATERIALS

2 Large Bowls	Cilantro (½ bunch)
Spoon	Knife
Serrano Peppers (0-3)*	Tomatoes (2-5)
Onion (1)	Salt / Pepper (to taste)
Cutting Board	Other Peppers (0-3)*
Lime / Lemon* (1-3)	

Materials with an (\*) are optional, use only if available

### ALTERNATIVE MATERIALS

Remember this recipe can be customized. You can use ingredients that you have available at home or those that suit your food preferences. Here are some ingredients that are sometimes added to Pico De Gallo recipes. Use them as inspiration for what you may want to add into your recipe!

Jicama (1)	Cucumbers (1)	Mango (1)
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### Background

In the Pre-Columbian era as today, salsa was made by utilizing ingredients commonly found in the environment. Pre-Columbian salsas were made from squash, fruits, tomatoes, tomatillos, onions and spices. The exact recipe would be different depending on community and region. Salsas transformed through the years. One of the famous salsas from Mexico is called Pico de Gallo. It has become a staple in Mexican cuisine. Pico de Gallo translates directly as “Rooster Beak.” Although the origins of this name are unknown, there are many theories as to where it came from. Many believe that the name came from the way people ate it. Fingers were used rather than utensils. This might mimic the way a bird pecks at food. Another theory is that the salsa is called Pico de Gallo because the pieces are chopped to the size of bird feed. Whatever the name may mean, this salsa is delicious, simple to make, and customizable!

### MUSIC

Now we have music that relates our lessons!  
Check out the **Spotify Playlist:**

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/13lh0wkOiVoYvXWO8mnLY0?si=EhGzr9LMQcWkOeqpxO3zYQ>



## Procedure

1. Start by washing all the ingredients and asking a parent to be on standby to help you with any cutting portions of the recipe.
2. Set up your cutting board and knife in front of you with one bowl to each side. One bowl will contain your chopped ingredients. The other can be used for trash.
3. Chop your tomatoes and place them into one bowl. Throw any trash in the other bowl. You can use 2-5 tomatoes, depending on your preference.
4. Repeat this method with the peppers. Remove the seeds if you do not want the peppers to be too spicy. You can use 0-3 peppers, depending on your preference. You can also add other peppers like jalapeno, habanero or arbol peppers.
5. Now grab a handful of Cilantro and cut off the ends of the stems. Then fold the bunch in half and hold it as you chop to make it easier to handle.
6. Next take your onion and chop it. Be aware that onions tend to release an acidic enzyme that makes your eyes water. Tip: You can freeze the onion for 10-15 minutes before chopping to help stop your eyes from watering!
7. Take your limes or lemons and juice them over your chopped ingredients. Be sure to take out any seeds using your fingers or a strainer.
8. Lastly, mix all the ingredients with your spoon and add salt and pepper as you mix. Now you are ready to serve it fresh. Enjoy it with some chips!



## Key Vocabulary

<p><b>Salsa</b> a spicy sauce made with peppers, onions, and tomatoes.</p>	<p><b>Utensil</b> a device, instrument, or container used in a kitchen</p>	<p><b>Customize</b> to make or change according to the specifications of the customer.</p>
<p><b>Ingredient</b> one of the parts of a mixture.</p>	<p><b>Raw</b> not cooked or changed by any process.</p>	<p><b>Spice</b> a vegetable substance with a particular smell or taste. Spices are used to flavor or season foods and drinks.</p>

# 2

## CLAY VESSEL

### AGES

6-13 years old

### SKILL LEVEL

Beginner

### DESCRIPTION

For this lesson we will learn how to make small cups using the traditional coil method. Since we will be using air dry clay, we will not need to fire them.

### MATERIALS

Model Magic Clay / Air Dry Clay / Salt Dough	Paint Brushes	Fork
Toothpick	Clay Tools*	Napkin / Dish Towel*
Water Cup / Palette	Acrylic Paint	Toilet Paper Roll / Empty container

*Materials with an (\*) are optional, use only if available.*

### HELPFUL TIPS

- This vessel is not meant to be used for drinking or eating. It is decorative.
- You can always add handles or lids to your pieces, if desired.

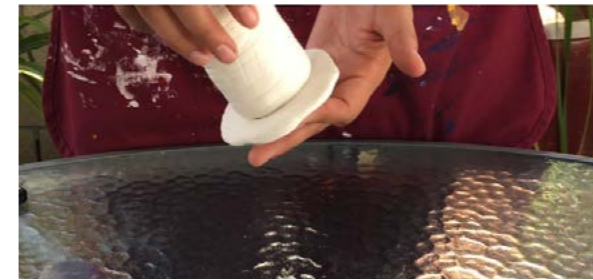
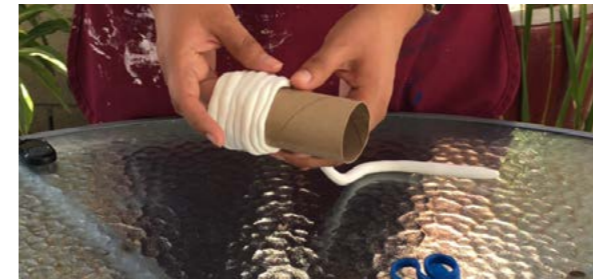
### Background

If you look at any ceramic piece, such as a cup, a bowl or a plate, chances are it was made using a potter's wheel. A potter's wheel is a machine that allows potters to throw. When throwing, ceramicists are able to make uniform circular pieces. The wheel also allows them to make smooth surfaces and professional trims. This is the modern way of making pottery, thanks to technological advances. In Pre-Columbian times, people in Guanajuato, Mexico had another way of making symmetrical vessels. This method is called hand-building, which means to create with your hands by using pinch or coil methods. This method and the sturdy products it produced are why vessels remained intact when they were excavated later by archaeologists. The vessels' thick walls and excellent craftsmanship allowed them to last throughout time so that we can appreciate them today. Aside from the construction, the vessels were also wonderfully decorated with pigments created from natural elements and geometric designs.



## Procedure

1. Begin by making a long coil with the clay by applying pressure evenly as you roll it out with the palm of your hand against a flat surface. Tip: If you do not have air dry clay, reference our lesson for salt dough (Insert link to lesson)
2. Take the coil and begin to wrap it around the toilet paper roll, starting from one end to the other. You will make multiple coils to allow you to cover the whole roll.
3. Eventually your entire toilet paper roll should be covered in coils. At this point, roll your vessel on a flat surface to smooth it out.
4. After you have smoothed out the coils, you will take a small amount of clay and flatten it out to a circle roughly larger than the opening at the end of your toilet paper roll. Make sure it is not too thin as this will be used as a base.
5. Attach the flattened clay to one end of your vessel and lightly press on it. Trim off any excess clay and pinch the sides to connect them to the base.
6. Now take a fork and press the points on the surface to create a pattern or design. You can also use a toothpick to add details or designs.
7. Leave it to dry when you're done.
8. Once dry, remove the toilet paper roll or object inside the clay vessel.
9. After you have left to dry for 2-4 hours, start to set up your paint, water container, brushes and napkin or dish towel and begin painting the background of your vessel. Paint any patterns you desire, such as stripes, dots, etc. Add any details or objects you like!
10. Leave it to dry once complete.



Source: Bowers Museum. Chupicuaro Ceramic Vessel. <https://www.bowers.org/index.php/collection/collection-blog/chupicuaro-ceramic-vessel>

## Key Vocabulary

<p><b>Ceramics</b> of or having to do with objects made of baked clay</p>	<p><b>Throw</b> is the entire activity of shaping clay on a potter's wheel.</p>
<p><b>Wheel</b> a round frame that turns on the axle.</p>	<p><b>Uniform</b> very alike; without any difference.</p>

# 3

## MAKING A CLAY DOG

### AGES

6-13 years old

### SKILL LEVEL

Beginner / Intermediate

### DESCRIPTION

For this project we will be making our own clay dog and painting it in the Folk Art style of modern Mexican artists.

### MATERIALS

Model Magic Clay / Air Dry Clay / Salt dough	Fork/Toothpick
Paint Brushes	Water Container
Pencil*	Tray/Plate (palette)
Clay Tools	Napkin/Dish towel*
Acrylic Paints	

*Materials with an (\*) are optional, use only if available*

### HELPFUL TIPS

- Use acrylic paint. It will bond permanently once dry.
- Use a variety of brush styles and sizes, this will allow you to make different patterns and designs.

### Background

In the Mexican states of Colima, Nayarit and Jalisco it was a custom to bury the dead with ceramic figures inside their shaft tombs. The figures were depictions of the Xoloitzcuintli or a Mexican Hairless Dog. Archeologists have estimated that between 75 and 90 percent of all Colima shaft tombs contained dog, making them among the most commonly created designs by Colima.

The Bowers Museum exhibits these ceramics in our Ceramics of Western Mexico exhibit. These traditional art forms also influence contemporary Mexican art. Artists in Jalisco continue to create pottery in the same style but have added their own twist to them. They add decorative patterns, designs, colors and objects onto their creations. This art is called Folk Art because it uses the styles and techniques of a specific culture with the purpose of retaining its authentic cultural identity.



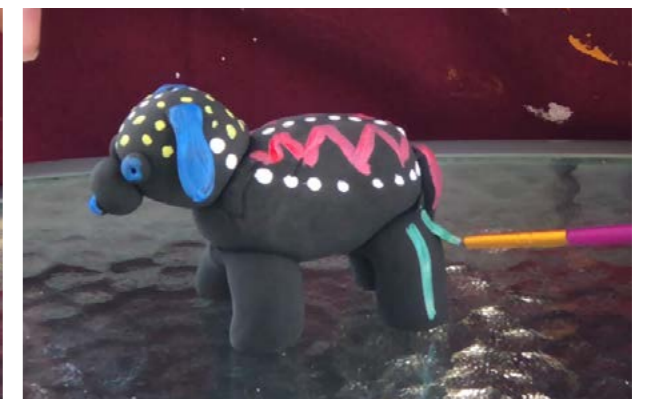
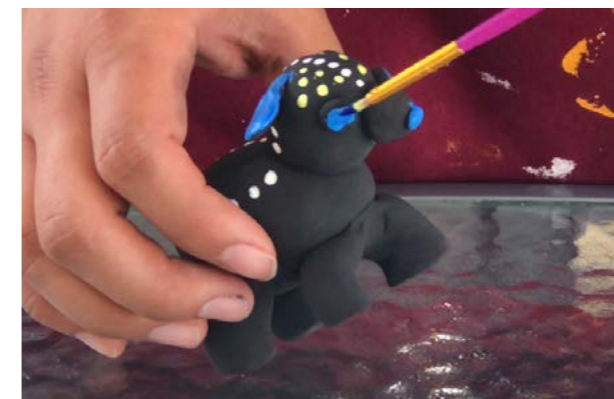


## Procedure

1. Roll out pieces of clay, one body part at a time. When making your dog figure, think about the shapes that make up the form. For example, the body can be an oval, the legs and arms are cylinders, the head is a sphere and so on. For facial features, the same applies: Eyes: Spheres, Nose: Triangle, Mouth: Oval.

Tip: If you do not have air dry clay, we have a [recipe for salt dough](#), you will find that lesson in our Walt Disney Archives set of Lessons.

2. Attach your pieces by pressing them together. Press the seams together with a clay tool or toothpick. Add any smaller pieces in the same way. Then leave your figure to dry for 2-4 hours.
3. Using pencil, lightly sketch some designs, patterns or objects you intend to paint on the surface of your figure. If you feel comfortable, you can skip this step and begin to paint the figure.
4. When painting take inspiration from Colima, Jalisco and Nayarit Folk Art. Try to imitate the patterns or make your own. Bright colors like orange, blue, green, yellow and red are often used. Also commonly found are flowers, circles, hearts and plants.
5. Leave it to dry once complete.



Source: Bowers Museum. Ceramics of Western Mexico.  
<https://www.bowers.org/index.php/current-exhibition/ceramics-of-western-mexico>. Accessed May 18, 2020

## Key Vocabulary

<p><b>Preserve</b> maintain (something) in its original or existing state.</p>	<p><b>Pattern</b> a repeated decorative design.</p>	<p><b>Shaft tombs</b> were large underground burial sites with multiple chambers that were normally found close to family dwellings. They contained not only people who had passed away but different ceramic artifacts of people and animals.</p>
<p><b>Folk Art</b> art produced from indigenous cultures</p>	<p><b>Authentic</b> made or done the same way as an original</p>	

## State and National Standards

### How to Make Pico de Gallo?

#### California Content Standards:

**HSS-K.6**

Students understand that history relates to events, people, and places of other times.

**NGSS.PS.5.1**

When two or more different substances are mixed, a new substance with different properties may be formed.

#### Common Core State Standards:

**CCSS.ELA.SL.K.2**

Understand and follow one- and two-step oral directions.

### Clay Vessel

#### State Content Standards:

**HSS-K.6**

Students understand that history relates to events, people, and places of other times.

#### Visual and Performing Arts:

**VA.PK.2.2**

Demonstrate beginning skill in the use of materials (such as pencils, paints, crayons, clay) to create works of art.

### Making Clay Dogs

#### State Content Standards:

**HSS-K.6**

Students understand that history relates to events, people, and places of other times.

#### Visual and Performing Arts Standards:

**VA.K.2.7**

Create a three-dimensional form, such as a real or imaginary animal.

**VA.1.2.3**

Demonstrate beginning skill in the manipulation and use of sculptural materials (clay, paper, and papier maché) to create form and texture in works of art.

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