

# Ceramic Arts in Medieval World History

## 2025-2026



Jess Thompson of the Cider Creek Collective taught four ceramic arts sessions in one seventh grade World History class at Anderson Valley Junior Senior High School. The first two sessions focused on the history and style of Japanese tea cups. The second two sessions focused on sculptural skills, as students designed a unique, African-inspired ceramic mask.



The Ceramic Arts in Medieval World History project was a collaboration between Jess Thompson of the Cider Creek Collective and Julie Honegger, junior high history teacher. Twenty-five students engaged in a year of exploration of ceramics, pattern, color and food in global cultures.

The first, Japanese-inspired, cup project involved students learning how to use the coil method to build a cup and how to use a paintbrush to make designs. The second, African-inspired project was the first time this collaboration explored sculptural skills with students. The seventh graders learned how to add clay through the scratch and slip method.



At the end of each unit of study, students took part in a cultural food experience. They used their cups to drink beverages from different regions of the world, such as authentic Mesoamerican hot chocolate, matcha, loose leaf black teas, Arabian coffee, and kola nut soda. At the end of the school year, students' masks were displayed in Ms. Honegger's classroom. They will be on display next year. The mask project was very successful with students, and they are eager to bring them home next year.

