

CLAY : SCAVENGER HUNT



DISCOVER MORE

Through this scavenger hunt, you will discover clay in your own spaces. You may be surprised by its use in the places and spaces where you interact and in the establishments you frequent. Most importantly, you will become **INFORMED** about the presence of this material in many corners of your everyday life!

WE FIND ARTWORKS ALL AROUND US—from public sculptures in local parks and plazas to handheld objects that can be found right under our noses. Our communities are filled with individuals who engage in making objects for beauty, for communication, for function, and simply for the love of making things. One material often placed in our hands at a young age is clay. Clay—whether it is a nationally branded “dough” or earthen material found in the local riverbed—is a modeling medium that can be manipulated into forms, both useful and decorative. We find objects made of clay in places we interact with every day.

In this interactive adventure, you are invited to “unearth the clay” in your area, engaging with the material with your senses. Where can you discover clay in your own home or community? Where can you see clay on display indoors or out of doors? Where can you touch clay? Where can you make things out of clay? Finally, how might you become a patron of clay makers in your local region?

GET ORGANIZED

To start, decide if you would like to take part in a solo adventure or organize a group for an added layer of competition.



Roberto Lugo, *We Here* (The Free Church of St. John), 2024.

If embarking on the adventure solo, pick a task list from the **OUTSIDE** adventure set or the **INSIDE** adventure set, and away you go! You can add an optional layer of individual competition by setting a time goal for your adventure, or by challenging yourself to the completion of both lists.

If this will be a group adventure, divide your group into two or more teams, and establish parameters for the competition including possible boundaries for the hunt. Additionally, decide on the guidelines that would identify a winner after finding the first 10, or perhaps the winner title will go to the fastest time overall time to complete the entire list. If your groups agree, the parameters for the competition are entirely up to you.

Before your adventure is under way, select a method of documentation that suits your desired outcome. For example, you may wish to document your findings with photographs or drawings. Would you enjoy crafting a title for your adventure and creating a physical or digital scrapbook? Once you have selected a format for your adventure it is time to begin.

BEGIN THE HUNT

OUTSIDE ■ How many of the following can you find?

- Natural clay in your community (see note* below)
- A garden feature made of ceramic material
- A neighbor's favorite ceramic coffee mug
- An architectural structure with decorative ceramic tiles
- Bricks
- Clay roof tiles or outdoor floor tiles
- A business or establishment with a sculptural clay work in the office or vestibule
- A public sculpture created out of clay
- A local institution such as a university, college, private studio or community center offering ceramic classes
- A ceramic sculpture in a religious house of worship, shrine, or sanctuary
- A place in your community to fire ceramic work in a kiln
- A local shop where you might purchase something made of clay
- A ceramic artist living in your area
- A local school, library, or other community space with clay artworks on exhibit
- A location in your community where you can create clay works
- A surprising location where you discovered clay in one form or another

INSIDE ■ How many of the following can you find?

- A favorite coffee mug made of clay
- A clay object in your home that has been wheel thrown
- A piece of jewelry created with ceramic beads
- A household fixture in the kitchen, bathroom, or elsewhere made of ceramic
- A ceramic piece glazed in blue
- A broken piece of pottery
- A ceramic pot holding a plant
- A functional dish made of ceramic material
- A ceramic lamp base
- Locate a cooking utensil with a ceramic element
- A ceramic tea pot or pitcher
- A child's ceramic artwork.
- A surprising indoor location where you discovered something made of clay

CELEBRATE

To celebrate your journey towards becoming more INFORMED about ceramics in your world, let's celebrate all you have accomplished!

If you found 5-10 on one set, you are a **CLAY ENTHUSIAST!**

If you found 10-15 on one set, you are a **DECORATIVE ARTS SPECIALIST!**

If you found 15-20 including the second set, you are a **POTTERY AFICIONADO!**

If you found 20-30 including the second set, you are a **CERAMIC CONNISSEUR!**

DOCUMENT



Courtesy of Moussa Kalapo

As a possible outcome, organize your photos, drawings, addresses, gallery brochures to share your discoveries with your fellow enthusiasts and aficionados! This could translate into a google slides show, a media album, a traditional scrapbook, or a tangible memory board honoring your journey and celebrating the fascinating ways clay appears in our lives!

NOTES

*Clay forms from weathered rock, so it usually settles where water slows down. Consider locations such as river and stream beds, lake shores and local ponds, road cuts or hillsides, or anywhere you see fresh erosion.

- Clay visually looks smooth, not gritty like sand
- Clay should pass the pinch test and is often sticky to the touch.
- Clay cracks into plates or chunks when drying.
- Dive deeper: View: [FINDING CLAY IN THE WILD](https://ancientpottery.how/how-to-find-clay/)
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