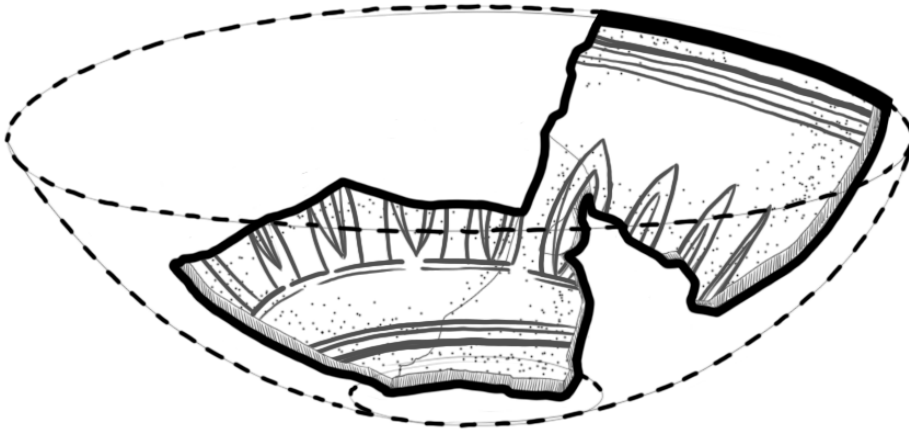


STEP 6:
FORM & FUNCTION TIPS
SUPPORT MATERIALS

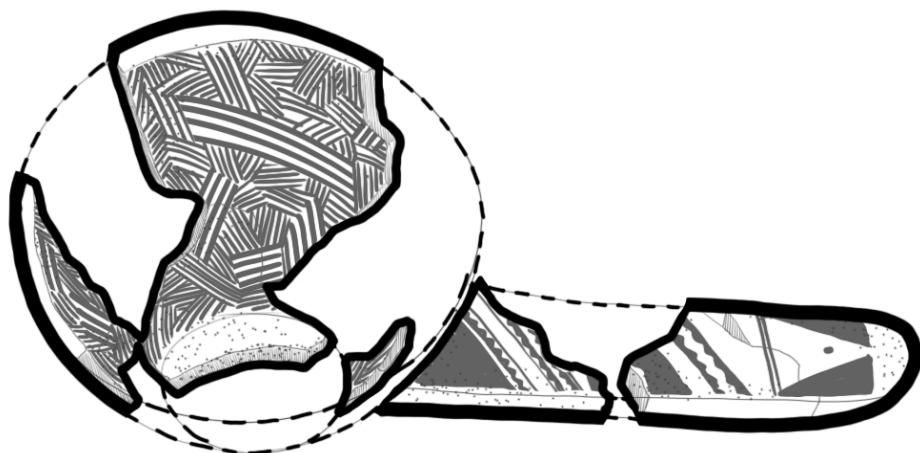
RESEARCHQUEST

BOWL



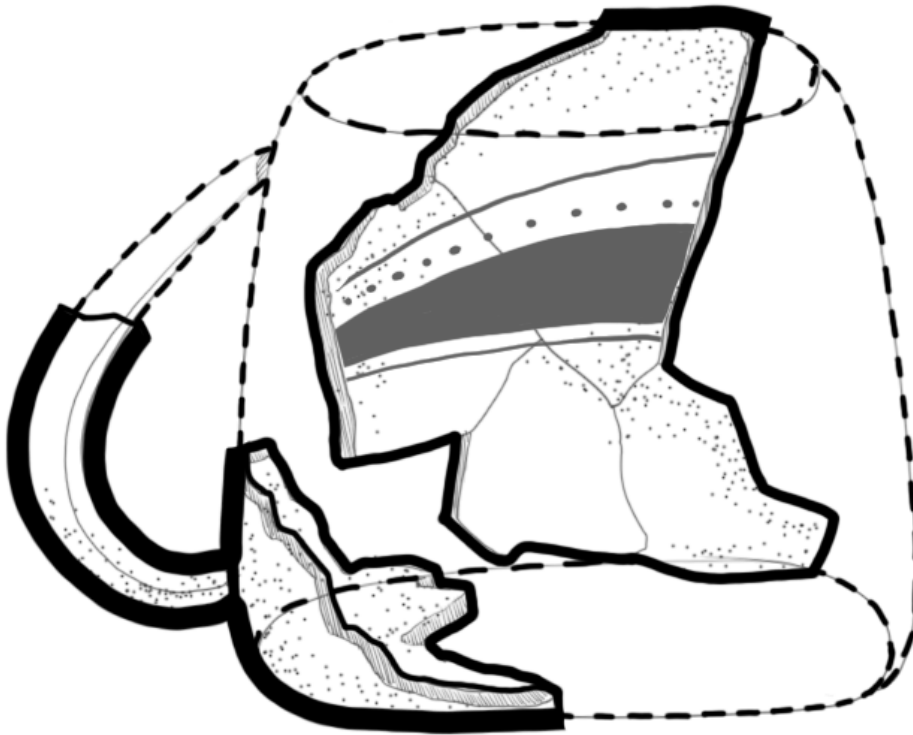
- Bowls typically have wide openings with straight rims.
- Bowls do not have handles.
- The curve of bowls is typically wide. The bigger the curve the bigger the bowl.
- Bowls are usually 20 cm or larger in diameter.
- The shape of the curve can vary but is frequently sphere-shaped.
- The temper & paste are typically fine but can be coarse in some older ceramic bowls.
- Bowls usually have a slip, polish, and/or paint on the interior (inside) surface.
- If a slip, polish, and/or paint are found on the exterior (outside) surface, they will usually not be as well executed as on the interior (inside).
- Bowls are generally very smooth and polished both inside and outside while painting is usually only found on the inside.
- Serving bowls are typically painted with more detailed designs on the inside surface. The size of the paint design gives clues to the size of the vessel it came from. Larger designs are found in larger bowls and smaller designs are found in smaller bowls.

LADLE



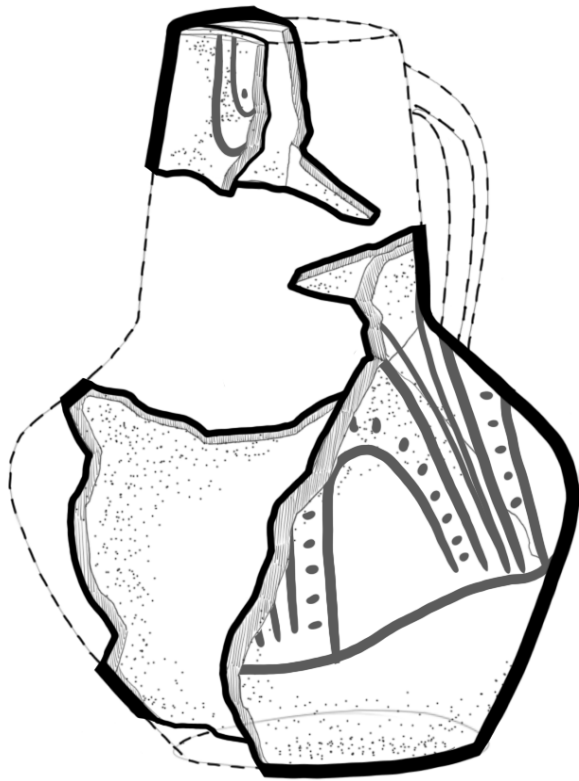
- Ladles have wide openings with straight rims - like small bowls.
- Ladle handles are long and straight.
- The non-handle portion of the vessel, the dipper, is shaped like a bowl and shallow.
- Evidence of a handle or handle attachment may be present depending on the portion of the ladle your sherd comes from.
- While most dippers are sphere-shaped, they can, also, be shaped like gourds that have been cut in half vertically.
- The dipper typically has a tighter rim curvature of 15 cm or less in diameter.
- The temper and paste are typically fine or very fine.
- The interior (inside) surface treatment usually includes a slip, polish, and/or paint.
- The interior design is typically a small-scale design.
- Some ladle rim sherds show wear and usage on the outside edge, which results from the dipper being scraped while being used as a scoop.

MUG



- Mugs have straight upright sides, a flat rim and base, and a vertical handle.
- The curvature of mugs are mostly cylindrical in shape.
- The curvature of pitchers varies based on what part of the pitcher you are studying. The neck is typically more straight like a cylinder while the globular body can be a variety of shapes. And, the base is always flat.
- Mugs and pitchers usually have one handle that is thin and resembles a vertically attached strap.
- The temper and paste of mugs and pitchers are usually fine or very fine.
- The exterior (outside) of mugs and pitchers are slipped and polished.
- The very top part of the interior (inside) of a mug is sometimes slipped and polished.
- Mugs and pitchers often have well-prepared and intricately painted small-scale designs on their exteriors.
- The interior bodies of mugs and pitchers are not painted on the inside.
- You can sometimes see scraping or smoothing marks on the inside of a mug or pitcher from where it was formed.

JAR



- Jars come in various shapes and sizes, but have similar characteristics.
- Generally the rim is flared either in or out.
- There are typically two small handles on opposing sides of the upper part of the jar. Often, they are horizontally attached to help with lifting.
- Jar curves depend on the function. They can be shaped like a sphere, ellipsoid, hyperboloid, or ovaloid.
- Depending on the function, the temper and paste can be fine or very coarse.
- The slip, polish, and/or paint are found on the exterior surface as jars are not slipped, polished or painted on the inside.
- Scrape or smoothing marks are preserved on the interior surfaces since marks made when the wet clay coils were scraped during manufacture will often be visible on the interior surface of a jar sherd.
- The design on the exterior of jars is based on its size. Larger vessels have larger designs while smaller ones have small-scale, intricate designs.
- The walls of large jars will usually be thicker to support its size. If the walls of the jar are thin they will cave in on themselves while they're still wet and trying to dry.

STEP 6:
FORM & FUNCTION TIPS
SUPPORT MATERIALS

RESEARCHQUEST

FUNCTION TIPS

- Usually, when a polish (smooth vs rough surface) is present that means the vessel was meant for serving, storing food, or trade. The smooth texture makes it more difficult to handle because it can easily become slippery.
- Usually, when corrugation is present that means the vessel was meant for handling and cooking. The corrugated texture makes it easy to handle, especially around liquids and fire.
- If any ceramic vessel has dark areas with charcoal deposits, especially coming from the bottom up, it can be evidence that it was used for cooking.
- If the ceramic vessel has a painted pattern with a smooth polish then we know it took a lot of time to make. This means it was more for visual appeal rather than function.
- If the ceramic vessel is a jar and has intricate patterning, this provides evidence for what it was used for. For example, it could have been used for trade or storage.
- Bowls with intricate, detailed patterning provide evidence it was most likely used for serving or trade.
- Mugs and pitchers were most often used for drinking.
- Ladles were most often used for scooping, pouring, or serving.