

Expressions in Clay

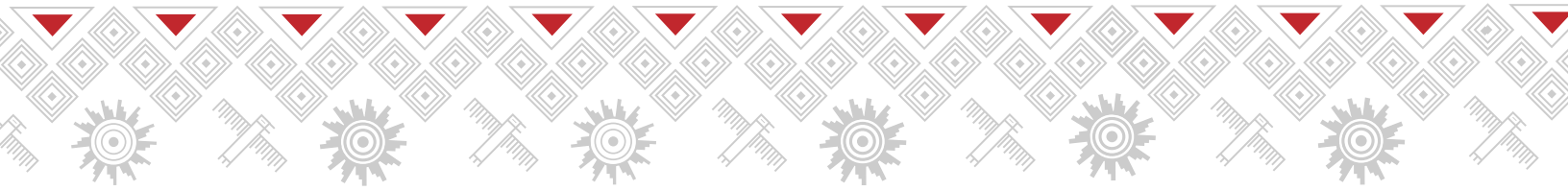
Pre-Columbian Pottery Types from the Southwest



Pottery, perhaps like no other medium, has been used by archaeologists to identify and classify cultures. For the last nineteen centuries, the Southwest became one of the most prolific pottery producing regions in the world where archaeologists have identified over 1,500 different types produced between AD 100 and the present day.

The El Paso Museum of Art and El Paso Museum of Archaeology (EPMArch) are pleased to share this assortment of pottery from EPMArch's permanent collection representing the Hohokam, Salado, Ancestral Puebloan, and Mogollon (Mimbres and Casas Grandes) cultures.





Pottery Activity

Expressions in Clay *Pre-Columbian Pottery Types from the Southwest*

One of the most unique aspects of Southwest pottery is the intricate designs and patterns found on each pot. For archaeologists, these designs are highly important. By looking at the different designs, patterns and colors, archaeologists can identify the culture the pot belongs to. The different designs added are also traditional to each culture and have different meanings and interpretations.

Cut out the different shapes and paste them on the pot to create your own designs and patterns. You can also draw your own or make additional shapes.

