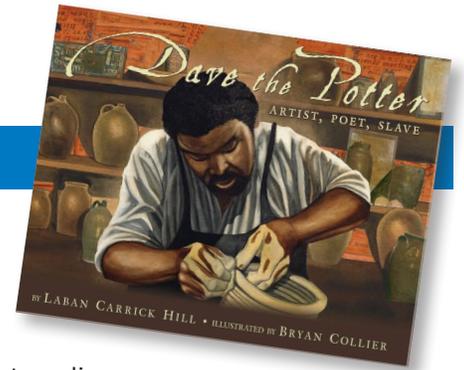


Dave the Potter



RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

STEAM-THEMED: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH

SCIENCE, MATH CLAY NATION

Materials: soil, quart-sized jars (1 per small group), water, dish soap, ruler, flashlight, permanent marker

Find out how much clay, silt, and sand is in the dirt in your area with this simple experiment.



Dig a deep hole and gather soil. Remove any rocks or roots. Fill the jar with about one pint of soil; mark soil level with a marker. Add water, leaving about 2 in. to the top. Add 1 tspn. of dishwashing liquid. Secure jar lid; shake 5-10 minutes. Set jar down and wait 2 minutes. Use the flashlight to see through the murk. The sand will have sunk to the bottom; draw a line to mark the level of sand. Wait 2 hours. The next settled layer is silt; mark the silt layer. What's left in the water is clay. It will take days for the clay to settle. Measure the layers and determine the percentage of each clay, silt, and sand in your soil.

TECHNOLOGY, WRITING A COUPLE OF COUPLETS

Visit www.davetheslave.org to read some of the couplets Dave inscribed on his work. Have students pick two couplets and compare them. What was Dave's mindset as he wrote each one? Students should support their inferences with evidence from the poems, the book, or their own experiences.

ENGINEERING, ART, SCIENCE FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION?

Hold up a block of clay. Ask students to think of how many ways clay can be used. List possibilities and determine whether they are functional, decorative, or both. Make a Venn diagram on the board.



Clay is used in many ways students might not realize, like manufacturing paper. What properties of clay make it so useful?

ART, WRITING PEACE POTS

Let each student make a pot or container out of clay. Once finished, students should write a list of simple ways they can make the classroom, school, or world a more peaceful place. Have them fold their writing and put it in their pot. Encourage them to put their pot in a place where it can be a constant reminder for them to help better the world.

MATH, WRITING A LOT OF POTS!

Have students use the following information to come up with at least three word problems:

- ◆ Dave made at least 40,000 pieces of pottery.
- ◆ He was born in 1801 and died around 1870.
- ◆ His poems increased from one every couple of years to three in 1857, eight in 1858, and seven in 1859.

