Ceramic Vocabulary Worksheet: General Information

The term “pottery” refers to any type of ceramic ware that is made from clay and hardened by fire.
The three main types of pottery are:

1. **Earthenware:** is fired at a lower temperature than that at which its particles fuse.

2. **Stoneware:** is fired to a temperature at which the body becomes vitrified (glassy) by the particles fusing together.

3. **Porcelain:** is a translucent clay body fired at a high temperature. White and hard. First developed in China in the 7th century.
There are five methods of working with clay, all of which will be used in this class.

1. Pinch
2. Coil
3. Slab
4. Molds
5. Potter’s Wheel
There are **three** stages of ceramic dryness.

1. **Plastic:** Wet, fresh, manageable

2. **Leather hard:** Some moisture remains, clay holds its formed shape. Still accepts additional parts.

3. **Bone Dry:** No moisture left; chalky dry. Must be at this stage to be fired.
There are three stages of Ceramic ware

1. **Greenware**: Bone dry ware that is ready to be fired.

2. **Bisqueware**: Ware that has been fired once.

3. **Glazeware**: Ware that has glaze applied and is waiting to be glaze fired.
General Vocabulary

- **Slip:** A suspension of clay in water used for casting molds and attaching parts.

- **Plasticity:** The ability of damp clay to yield under pressure

- **Pyrometric Cones:** Small pyramids of ceramic material formulated to bend over and melt at a certain temperature.
General Vocabulary  (Continued)

- **Grog:** Small particles of fired clay added to the clay body to help in drying, to add texture, and to reduce shrinkage and warpage.

- **Kiln:** A furnace built of heat-resistant material for firing pottery or sculpture.

- **Glaze:** A coating that has been melted onto a clay surface by the use of heat.

- **Underglaze:** Colored slip that is used under a glaze to create decorative effects.
**Foot:** The base of a piece of pottery, usually left unglazed.

**Template:** A pattern used as a guide for shaping clay.

**Wedging:** A method of kneading clay to expel the air, get rid of lumps, and prepare a homogenous material.

**Throwing:** Forming objects on the potter’s wheel.
Tools

- Rib
- Smoothing Tool
- Needle Tool
- Fettling Knife
- Loop Tool
- Clean-Up Tool