

GARGOYLE SCULPTURE LITERATURE

Vocabulary list:

Designing vocabulary		Making vocabulary	

Information on the firing process:

Firing clay involves a process where clay objects are subjected to high temperatures to transform them into a durable, solid form. There are two main types of firings: bisque firing and glaze firing.

1. **Bisque Firing:**

- **Purpose:** The primary goal of bisque firing is to remove all the water from the clay and to begin the process of hardening the clay. Bisque firing is done at a lower temperature range compared to glaze firing, typically in school we bisque fire at around 800 degrees Celsius.

Process:

Preparation: Greenware (unfired, dried clay) is loaded into a kiln, a special high-temperature oven used for firing ceramics.

Firing: The kiln is slowly heated to the bisque firing temperature. During this process, the water in the clay evaporates, and the clay undergoes physical and chemical changes, becoming more rigid. After reaching the desired temperature, the kiln is allowed to cool before the bisque-fired pieces are removed. The result is porous, unglazed pottery known as bisqueware.

2. **Glaze Firing:**

- **Purpose:** Glaze firing is the second firing, and it involves applying a layer of glaze to the bisque-fired pottery. The glaze provides a smooth, glassy surface and may add decorative elements. Glaze firing is done at a higher temperature, typically in school we glaze fire at around 1250 degrees Celsius.

Process:

Glazing: The bisqueware is coated with a layer of glaze, which is a mixture of minerals and chemicals that will melt and fuse during firing, creating a glass-like surface.

Firing: The glazed pottery is placed back into the kiln, and the temperature is raised to the glaze firing range. This causes the glaze to melt and adhere to the surface of the pottery. After reaching the glaze firing temperature, the kiln is allowed to cool before the finished glazed pottery is removed.

The firing process is a crucial step in ceramic art and pottery production (also called '**ceramics**'), as it not only strengthens the clay but also imparts the desired aesthetic qualities through glazing. The specific temperatures and firing times can vary based on the type of clay, the desired outcome, and the type of kiln used.