**CLAY WHISTLE: EXTRA INFO AND HINTS:** 2+ class sessions (gboothgbooth@gmail.com)

**MATERIALS:**

**1 lb. clay (more or less) per student 1 popsicle stick per student 1 (large) paper clip per student**

Extra: **Pencil** for shaping and to write name on bottom, **plastic sack** to store unfinished whistle for session #2.

If whistle is not done wrap it in a LABELED plastic bag sealed tight. When whistle is complete, set a plastic bag over it loosely so it can dry slowly. After drying for a day or two set whistle atop two pencils to allow for air flow underneath. Replace bag loosely. (You can set it on clay rings or bottle caps instead.) Whistle must dry for 2 or 3 weeks. If inside is not completely dry before firing in the kiln the whistle will explode.

**HINTS:**

Only one very tiny 'crud ball' will keep whistle from whistling. Once the whistle whistles it usually does not loose its sound when one adds attachments. It does not change the sound or loose it's whistle after being fired.

All **attachments** must be short and fat. Score and slip the attachments or they will fall off as they dry.

Let students come up to get **extra clay** as needed for attachments. If any clay sits out too long in small pieces on their desks it quickly becomes too dry to use. This is a waste of clay.

Have students write their **name** on a scrap paper before passing out the clay. Ask that they put the paper with their name on it under their clay whistle when done. This way if they forget to write their name on bottom of whistle, or write only their initials (not recommended) on it, you can write the name yourself.

It is 'fun' to ask them to write in the year. Makes it a real 'memento.'

In making the creature do not let students 'draw' lines for eyes or stripes etc. This is a ***sculpture.*** It is impossible to get glaze (or paint) into the scar/cracks of such draw-on lines. Instead show them how to add an eyeball (additive) or carve in stripes or a mouth (subtractive) instead. All 'lines' should be carved out wide, clean, and simple. A small bobby pin is a good makeshift ribbon tool for carving out lines.

To 'fill time' if a student is done early, have them wet the piece with a soft paintbrush of water then 'massage' the clay with a finger to make it very smooth.

**COMMON PROBLEMS:**

\*A student who puts the pipe stem “wherever they feel like it” (as an excuse to 'creatively break the rules'). *Remember, whistle won't work unless bottom of stem lines up flat with the bottom of the igloo.*

\*Grass blade (ski ramp) gets too low. *Put popsicle stick back in pipestem and lift the blade up carefully.*

\*Grass blade (ski ramp) gets too wide/large. *Put popsicle stick back in and add clay to make a new 'ramp.'*

\*Hole is not lined up with the front inside of the pinch pot. *Hole must be be vertical (up and down) from the front of the square hole down to the curve of the inside of the pot. If it is not correct or clean, put a popsicle stick in vertically to line it back up again, making sure to remove all 'crud balls' created in the process.*

\*A student who bends the pipe stem so it doesn't blow air directly into the igloo cavity. *Straighten pipestem*

**EXTRA:**

A good school grade clay is cone 06 (NOT cone 6 clay!). This is because it is a lower fire clay, so it has a bit less heat temperature for breakage. Clay comes in two twenty-five pound plastic sacks in a cardboard box. You can get white/gray clay or get some red for variety. Clay becomes a bit dry within a year.