



Lesson plan structure

Name of the lesson: **Mobility and cultural integration in the Mediterranean basin: the contribution of pottery**

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| Prerequisites | - clay |
| Aims | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Defining how to study human mobility through pottery forming techniques- To understand different methods of making hand-made pottery |
| Students' age | 14 – 17 |
| Steps | 30 min - beginning and lecture 15 min - demonstration 15 min - application explanation 30 min - application |
| Time | 90 minutes |



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Workshop – MOBILITY AND CULTURAL INTEGRATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

0-30 Beginning and lecture

Why people move and how can we reconstruct their movements in prehistory? Students are asked to speak about it.





Mobility in the prehistoric Mediterranean

People move all the time for various reasons and leave different type of traces. Obviously, the simple act of moving from one place to another and back might not leave any archaeological traces. A different matter is when people relocated themselves from one place to another, forever or for a long period of time. In this case, they will have an impact on the local population an impact that depends by the number of new people arriving.

Interactive video about development of countries within the Europe from 1000 – 2000:

<https://youtu.be/Sit--7Clds8>

The Mediterranean is the ideal place to address issues of mobility because, thanks to the presence of many islands, people have pass it through since earlier prehistory. In this respect, Sicily is a perfect case study because it is placed at the crossroad of many routes of the Mediterranean and through time has been intermediate step or destination for people who were trying to build a better life. Contemporary examples shows that the arrival of numerous groups of people from a different or from a single point of origin have different impact on the local communities. With this understanding, archaeologists have now approached the study of past communities trying to discriminate between goods that were made in a specific place and were found in distant location through trade, and goods that are made in the same place where they were found but appear to be indistinguishable from goods typical of a different area.

Pottery is amongst the most helpful class of material because it can be made in different ways, which tend to remain the same through time within the same cultural group. From this perspective if a vessel is made in a local clay using a technique which is not common amongst the local potters, then we might propose that the vessel was made by a potter arriving from another location

How was pottery was made?

Pottery can be made by hand and on the wheel. In the Mediterranean wheel-made pottery appeared in the second half of the II millennium BC, probably introduced from the Aegean. Between the late 7th and beginning of the 6th millennium BC pottery was made by hand with simple techniques that are labelled pinching; coiling; moulding; slab-building. While each of these techniques is quite widespread across the Mediterranean and cannot be associated with a specific place of origin, the combination of them can be region specific.

Video – the art of Sicilian pottery decoration: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Yv4J5-uVB8>

Demonstration: 15 minutes

Students were asked to observe how to make a vessel in two way: (1) using a single piece of clay for the body and a cordon of clay (coil) to finish the upper part; (2) using cordons of clay, made separately and assembled together.



15 min - application explanation: pinching and coiling technique

Students are given the clay and are guided to work through a single piece of clay and how to make the cordons. They are also provided with shells and bone tools to decorate the finish products.





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30 min Application

All groups practice with the clay to make vessels in the two techniques.

Question:

Is it possible to recognise the type of technique used to make a vessel?
Can this help us reconstructing the movements of people in the past?

Group discussion is provided