Korean Lesson

The target audience for this lesson is a high school ceramic or sculpture class. It would follow a series of lessons on basic hand building techniques. It could also be part of a fund raising project for the school’s art program or some other organization. It would have to be taught by an art teacher, someone with a good understanding of ceramics or in partnership with one of these.

Purpose:

This lesson is introduce students to the development of roof tiles in Korean architecture during the Shilla and Paekche Dynasties and broaden their knowledge of ceramic techniques.

Essential questions:

What we the purpose of roof tiles?  
How where they produced?  
Did this style of tiles and production passed on in Korea and/or other parts of the world?

Rationale:

To expand students unawareness of the use of clay, (as in architectural purposes), while increasing their skill level when working with clay.

Materials: Kit Contents:

- Paper for sketching design ideas
- Clay, fine sand and tools for modeling
- Plaster for making mold of tiles for production
- Access to a kiln for firing clay

Web sites:

- http://scienceview.berkeley.edu/VI/handbooks.archaeology.html
- http://www aisf.or.jp/~jaanus/deta/k/kawara.htm
- http://www.metmuseum.org/explore/Korea/koreaonline/cPaekcheTiles
- http://www.kofo.or.kr/english/about.html
- http://artseoul.net/iartshop/index.html
- A Panorama of 5000 Years: Korean History, by Andrew C. Nahm, Ph. D.

Activities:

Begin lesson with images of ancient Korean architecture. Looking at the various parts, paying close attention to the roofs and the use of clay tiles for the roofs and ornamentation of the edge. through a guided discussion help student draw conclusions/ answers for the essential questions. Demonstrate the production technique by modeling a tile, (with a lotus design). Once completed show students how to make a mold of the original tile, using plaster. When plaster has harden remove the clay tile and let mold dry for another day.

Part II, have students create their own tiles, one with a traditional lotus design and one with a stylized design of something that represents their time and culture. Once tiles are made the students should make molds of their tiles and begin production.

Assessment:

Criteria for a passing grade would include:

Successful creation of 2 original tiles, molds of those designs and the production of 3+ duplicates.

Displaying craftspersonship in construction and responsibility for the studio and tools.

Short essay on “What my life is like in Korea during the Shilla and Paekche Dynasties” (exact 50 year period and personal information would be randomly picked by students)

Grade Adaptation:

This project could be done with even young elementary students, but molds would have to be made by the teacher ahead of time and have the children just fill molds with clay. Young students could make drawings of ancient Korea building making sure to include roofing drawings.