



Making Faces

Understanding artifacts through design elements

Subject: Art/1st & 2nd grades

Skills: Drawing, Interpreting facial expressions, understanding artifacts

Strategies: hands-on, collaboration

Time: 40–60 minutes **Class size:** adaptable

Objectives:

SOLs	Students will:
Cultural Context and Art History 1.11, 1.22	<p>Recognize and describe how art is an integral part of one's own culture.</p> <p>Student will identify and describe works of art that communicate feelings, ideas and information.</p>
Aesthetics 1.18, 1.19, 1.20	<p>The student will discuss the reasons why works of art have value.</p> <p>The student will discuss various points of view regarding what art is and what purpose art serves.</p> <p>The student will describe and discuss ideas and emotions communicated in works of art.</p>
Cultural Context and Art History 2.11, 2.12	<p>The student will compare the art, artifacts and architecture of other cultures with that of their own.</p> <p>The student will identify symbols that various cultures use to represent common themes.</p>

Background: There are many different kinds of artifacts that have been excavated at James Fort on Jamestown Island. Most of them were used by the English Settlers in the fort, from 1607 to 1629. Some of the more interesting types of artifacts are the jugs that are called “Bartmann Jugs.” These jugs were called Bartmann because of the bearded faces found on the front. Bartmann in German means “bearded man.” These jugs were first produced in Germany in 1550. (See attached reference sheet.)

Some of the faces on these jugs are friendly looking, while others look more menacing.

Procedure: Have the students look at the attached picture of a Bartmann that was excavated by the archaeologists at Jamestown Rediscovery. Explain that this was the type of drinking container used by the settlers of James Fort, including John Smith and others. Have them discuss the expression on the jug's face. **Drawing parallels:** Do the students have any objects at home that have pictures of familiar characters on them? Cartoons on glasses and lunchboxes are common, as are pieces of familiar art work on dishes and calendars.

Have the students each draw a face with an expression of their choice. Have them cut it out and paste it to a brown paper jug (pattern attached). Have them write or discuss a short description of the facial expression, who it might represent, and why they chose it.



Bartmann Jug, c.1600

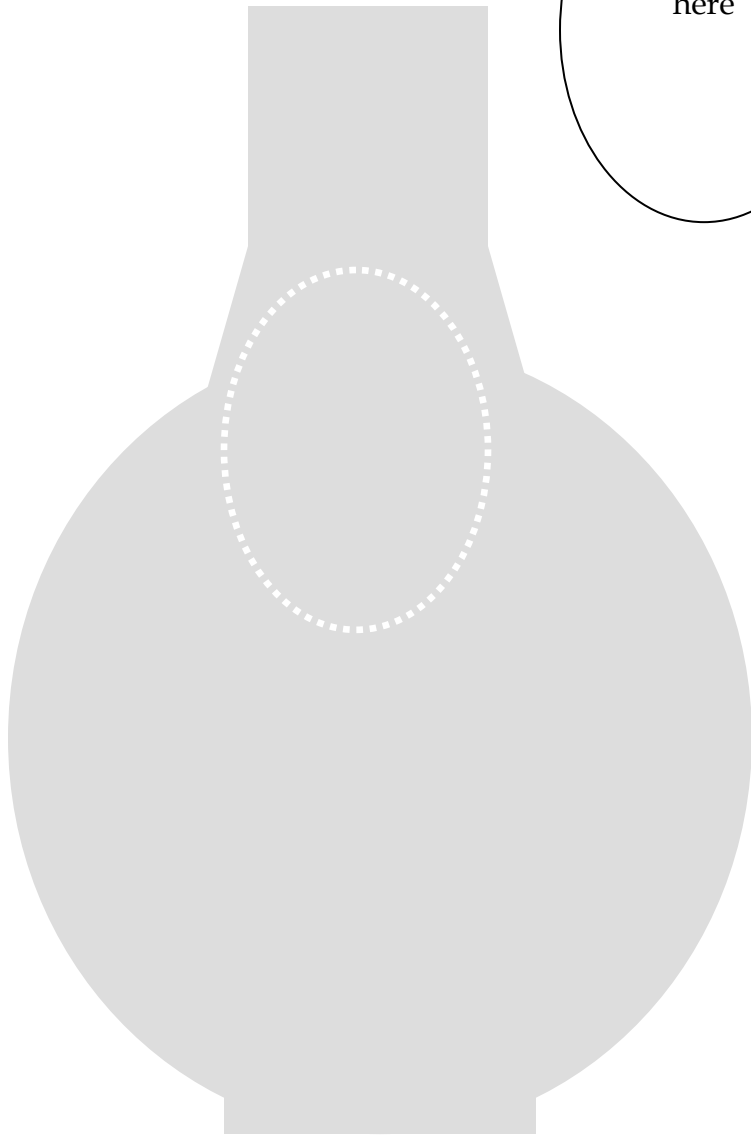
Made in Frechen, Germany, saltglazed stoneware vessels such as this jug were produced and exported in great quantities to fulfill England's stoneware needs. England succeeded in establishing her own stoneware industry in the 1680s. The jugs are known as Bartmann or "bearded man" for the bewhiskered face that adorns the neck. Bartmann jugs are also identified in the literature as "Bellarmines," a term popularly believed to be a satiric reference to the much-despised Cardinal Robert Bellarmino (1542-1621). In 1606 Bellarmino, who was an opponent of Protestantism, publicly rebuked King James I for his treatment of English Catholics. While the English and Dutch may have made the association between the bulbous grimacing jug and the Catholic prelate

during the tempestuous religious climate of the early 17th century, it is unlikely that the form originated as a caricature. The first *Bartmänner* were produced around 1550 when Bellarmino was only eight years old!

This Bartmann jug was excavated from Pit 1, a ca. 1610 context within the palisaded walls of James Fort. It has three medallions around its belly. The medallions consist of a coat-of-arms depicting a crowned shield that has been divided into four quarters. The first and third quarters each exhibit a single lion *passant*, which means that he is walking with his right paw raised. The second and fourth quarters each have two lions *passant*. In the first quarter, which is the upper left-hand corner of the shield, there is a heraldic

device known as a *fess with a label on chief*. This is the band across the upper third of the escutcheon that is carrying three stylized fleurs-de-lis. It is this label that identifies the medallion as Italian and, more specifically, as representing a member of the Tuscan Anjou party of Guelfs who from medieval times were staunch supporters of the Pope.

Guelf coats-of-arms have never before been recorded on German stoneware. Further, there is no documented trade of the ware in Italy, so the Bartmann jug from Pit 1 is extremely rare. It must have been commissioned by an individual, perhaps an Italian merchant, who had trade or other contacts with northwest Europe.



Place face
here

