Grades: K- 3rd Grade
Subject: The Arts and Native cultures

Time: One or two days to allow students to design their pottery and share.

Overview:

Students in Pre-k are to learn about the designs used by the Caddo Indians. The Louisiana State Exhibit Museum has a collection of pottery from the Caddo Nation, which is known for the high quality of design and execution. The activity, targeted for Pre-k students, explains construction and design patterns and provides a template for students to decorate their own pottery, based on classic Caddo traditions.

Additional information can be found here:
http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/tejas/clay/index.html

Benchmarks:

VA-CA-E3 Express and explain aesthetic judgments about the created (built) environment
VA-HP-E1 Identify the subject, basic style, and culture represented by various works of art
VA-AP-M4 Demonstrate awareness of various new ideas, possibilities, options, and situations pertaining to the art world
VA-AP-M5 Discuss the question "What is art?" and express intuitive reactions and personal responses to various works
VA-AP-M6 Describe the use and value of the visual arts in daily life, the workplace, and the community
VA-CE-E4 Experiment to create various art forms, including art forms from other cultures
VA-CE-E5 Draw on imagination, individual experience, and group activities to generate ideas for visual expression

Pre-activity Information:
Have markers, pattern sheets, and magnets ready for the students.
Activity:

Have students cut out and decorate a pot shape of their choosing with designs similar to those on the next page. Activity should ideally be done after visiting LSEM’s West Wing Gallery.

These are some of the pottery shapes used by the Caddo Indians.

The narrow necked flask is called a “water bottle” as this was likely it’s purpose. The other two forms are simply a jar and bowl.
These are some of the patterns found on the pottery.
Pottery template sheets-