

Pot Section Object Card

The widespread making of pottery vessels was one of the most notable innovations occurring in the Central Plains around A.D. 1. Through systematic studies archeologists can identify different Native American groups by their pottery styles. Pottery traditions may vary from group to group through the type of clay and/or temper used, the shape of the vessel, or the type of decoration used. This pot section, with its jug-like form, smoothed plain surface, and strap handles, is a style associated with the ancestors of the Wichita Indians living in the Central Plains around A.D. 1450-1750.

For some time after European contact, Native Americans continued to make pottery from local clays. However, by the early to mid-nineteenth century, the quality of Indian-made pottery diminished. This may reflect less skilled pottery makers as the metal pots and pans available through the fur trade gave them little incentive to practice their pottery-making skills.

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