

Pottery Sherd Object Card

Pottery fragments, or sherds, often mark the location of Native American sites because pottery (along with stone, bone, and shell) decompose slowly in Kansas soils. Pottery sherds are among the most studied prehistoric artifact because each fragment contains information about the environment, culture, and techniques that produced them. More than most other kinds of artifacts, pottery can be a guide to identifying which Native American group occupied a site.

Styles of pottery varied over time and from one Native American culture to another. This sherd is not large enough to determine what size or shape of pot it came from. The piece is also from the body of a vessel and so lacks the rim area where decoration most often occurs on Central Plains pottery. Pot rims provide clues important in identifying the Native American group responsible for creating the vessel.

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