

American Indian and Multicultural Connection

Woodland Indians would fire their pottery using a pit fire. A shallow pit was dug. It was lined with combustible materials and wood. The air cured pots were layered in the pit with additional combustibles. The fire was built around and then slowly placed on top of the pottery. After the fire burned out, the pots were

left to cool. Pit fire pots have a distinctive gray color with some black. Discuss the methods of construction and firing used by American Indians from the Eastern Woodlands areas. How were these similar and different from colonial pottery? (See the pit firing activity suggested for Extended Learning.)