Potter Ben Watford's face jugs seek to present and preserve a facet of the African-American experience. The earliest face jugs we know of were made by enslaved potters before the Civil War. They didn’t sign their work, so we’re not sure why they made them. What kind of face will you make?

Wealth with them. When held over their pots, the black potters were making, and potters were making, and when both moved, their skills and styles with them. After a while, white potters in the area copied them.

The earliest face jugs we know of were made in the Edgefield area of South Carolina before the Civil War. They didn’t sign their work, so we’re not sure why they made them. What kind of face will you make?

1. Draw a face on the jug and color it.
2. Fold the piece of paper on the dotted line, keeping the jug on the outside of the fold.
3. Cut around the jug’s edges, top and bottom, on the thicker lines. Do not cut the jug all the way out! Leave a tab attached to the page by the ears.
4. Keep the sheet folded, cut along the edge of the nose.
5. Unfold the sheet and lay it flat. Carefully fold the parts above and below the fold. It’s a pop-up!
6. Bend the jug’s nose up a bit so it pops out from its face.
7. Display your new face jug!

Face Jug Examples from the Museum Collection

Figure 1

Supplies

- pencil
- colored pencils or markers
- scissors
- this craft sheet

Ben Watford's face jug