

This 2,500-year-old drinking vessel is in the shape of the head of a donkey. The realistic ears, eyes, and open braying mouth of the donkey would surely give joy to anyone drinking from this cup.



Douris (Greek, active 5th century B.C.).  
*Rhyton (Drinking Vessel) in the Shape of a Donkey Head*, 465/455 B.C.  
Terracotta, red-figure technique.  
Museum Purchase Fund.



## A Donkey Cup



- What is this? What animal does it look like? How could this be used as a cup? What material is this cup made of?
- How would you set this cup down if it were filled? Would you cover the top with your hand, balance the cup on its nose, drink all of its contents first, or something else? The ancient Greeks would have drunk all its contents because this cup cannot stand up.
- Have students play with clay or dough and experience how it can be molded into various shapes. How could you form the clay or dough into a cup? Have students make their own clay cups.

Illinois State Goals: 4, 16, 25, 26, 27

## Animals around the House



- If a cup could take the shape of a donkey's head, what other household items could be in the shape of an animal?
- Have students list common household items (chair, table, lamp, etc.) and favorite animals (bear, turtle, giraffe, etc.). Have students look around their homes to gather ideas.
- Have students design a household item in the shape of an animal. Students could watch part of a *Flintstones* cartoon or movie for inspiration.

Illinois State Goals: 25, 26

Lines,  
Shapes,  
Colors

Animals

Transportation

Home

Play

Design your own cup.

