About Blown Glass

A TIMELESS RECIPE
To make glass, mix the following ingredients:
• Sand
• Soda ash
• Limestone

Heat to 2,500 degrees.

WHAT’S HOT, WHAT’S NOT
Temperature is so important in glassmaking that three furnaces are used in the process. After the dry ingredients of glass are combined together, the mixture is heated in an enormous furnace known as a working furnace. The dry mixture is then heated to 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit to properly fuse the individual components of glass together and transform it into a hot molten mixture.

When working with glass, it is important that the glass stay at a constant 1,800 degrees. So while working with glass, artisans use a small reheating furnace known as the glory hole, a name that pays honor to the beautiful object that will eventually emerge from the furnace.

Once a glass object is completed, it must be placed in an annealing oven to cool. This oven allows finished pieces of glass to cool gradually over time. If glass objects are not annealed, they will crack or break.

CREATING BLOWN GLASS
Glassblowing is a team activity that employs the talents of many artisans. Typically, a group of seven makes up one shop in the glassblowing industry. The boss within this shop is known as a gaffer, which is an old word for grandfather.

GLASSBLOWING BASICS
• First, an artisan collects a gob of molten glass, known as a gather, from the working furnace on the end of a metal blowpipe, a long, usually five-foot, hollow rod.
• Next, the molten glass is blown, rolled, pulled, and manipulated with various tools into the shape desired. During this phase, the object makes frequent trips to the glory hole.
• When the object is shaped, it is transferred from the blowpipe to a pontil rod, a long, solid iron rod, for the finishing touches.

Word Puzzle
Fill in the blanks, using the clues and the words below:
1. The first furnace used in the glassblowing process.
2. The term used to describe Tiffany’s vases and tableware.
3. The reheating furnace used in glassblowing.
4. The main ingredient of glass.
5. The team leader in glassblowing.
6. The term Tiffany used that means handmade.
7. The tool used by artisans to make hollow vessels.
8. The modern-day name of the area where glassmaking was invented.
10. A tool used by artisans while finishing a blown-glass object.
11. A group of seven makes up one of these.
12. Tiffany glass inspired by archaeological digs.

<table>
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<th>pontil rod</th>
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<td>glory hole</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cypriote</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
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Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848 – 1933) was one of the most important and influential American artists of the late 1800s and early 1900s. In 1893, Tiffany introduced his “art glass” to the general public. This art glass represented the highest achievement in taste and style and followed Tiffany’s work with glass tiles, glass moldings, and leaded-glass windows. Tiffany’s art glass, including vases and tableware, helped Tiffany achieve his goal of providing a greater number of people with something beautiful for their homes.
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WHAT’S IN A NAME?

Tiffany chose one word to describe his works in glass, enamel, and pottery: Favrile. Favrile comes from an old English word meaning handmade.

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Tiffany Art Glass for the Public

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About Tiffany Art Glass

TECHNIQUES AND SOURCES

Ideen for Tiffany's art glass pieces came from a variety of places. And, of course, there was no greater source of inspiration for Tiffany than nature. He studied plants, flowers, rocks, and the flow of lava and then incorporated these things into his artwork.

What makes Tiffany art glass special?

- Gem-like colors
- Original forms
- Surface finishes
- Variety

Tiffany was fascinated by the art of ancient worlds. Archaeology was a new and popular science during the 18th and 19th centuries, and Tiffany most certainly saw many objects from archaeological digs. These two types of Tiffany art glass were inspired by such finds:

CYPRIOTE GLASS:
This glass, its name derived from the island nation, Cyprus, has the rough, irregular, or pitted surface—and also the unusual sheen—that was common in glass buried for centuries. It is believed that Tiffany reproduced this ancient surface by rolling molten glass in crushed glass crumbs.

TELL EL-AMARNA:
This Egyptian-inspired glass from Tiffany Studios has simple neck decorations and is based on Tiffany's knowledge of the ancient vases recovered from the Pharaoh Akhenaten excavation in Tell el-Amarna.

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DID YOU KNOW?

- Sand is the main ingredient of glass.
- Glass produced by volcanic eruptions more than 40 million years ago is known as obsidian.
- Glassmaking is believed to have been invented in Mesopotamia—now Iraq—4,500 years ago.
- The technique of glassblowing began in the Roman Empire around 50 B.C.
- Tiffany’s art glass has practical uses but is more often purely decorative.

EXPLORE TIFFANY’S CAREER!

1848 Tiffany is born in New York
1870s Exhibits paintings at National Academy and Century Club
1879-1882 Hired for important jobs in interior design
1883 Exhibits chapel interior, a mosaic masterpiece, at the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago
1885 Introduces art glass to the public
1886 Awarded patent for use of the trademark “Favrile”
1889 Introduces leaded-glass lamps
1894 Awarded patent for use of the trademark “Favrile”
1895 Completes Laurelton Hall on Long Island
1904 Introduces pottery, begins designing jewelry
1933 Tiffany dies in New York

Family Activities

SCAVENGER HUNT

Tiffany created art glass in wonderful shapes, sizes, colors, and designs. Can you find:

1. A vase that looks like lava.
2. A vase that looks like it might be a genie’s home.
3. The largest work in the exhibition.
4. The smallest work in the exhibition.
5. Objects that look like they might be inspired by the view from a glass-bottom boat.
6. A vase that is pink.
7. Vases decorated with tulips.
8. Vases decorated with zigzag designs.
10. Vases decorated with vines.

ANSWER KEY:

1. Case #11 (65-029) and Case #18 (1999-115)
2. Case #26 (66-010)
3. Case #25 (55-002)
4. Salt dish on table
5. Case #4 (162-005) and (56-005)
6. Case #12 (57-004)
7. Case #23 (52-001) and (55-005)
8. Case #2 (70-023) and (54-040)
9. Most of Case #27
10. Case #28 (79-529) and (55-004)

DRAWING ACTIVITY

Draw your favorite Tiffany art glass piece from the exhibition Domestic Treasures: Tiffany Art Glass for the Public.
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Tiffany Art Glass for the Public

FAMILY GUIDE