Name: _____ Date: _____

How a Lump of Clay Becomes a Bowl

Circle group

A potter can turn a lump of clay into a bowl. The tool is a spinning wheel.

First, the potter puts the clay on the middle of the wheel. The wheel turns. The potter wets both hands. This keeps the clay slick.

Next, the potter presses a thumb in the middle. That makes a hole. Then the potter squeezes the sides. The wheel spins. The walls rise up. It is a bowl!

The bowl dries for a few days. Then it is baked in a very hot oven called a kiln. The heat makes the clay hard.

Questions

1. What does a potter use to shape a bowl?

_____

_____

2. Why does the potter wet both hands?

_____

_____

3. What does the potter do with a thumb?

_____

_____

4. What is the hot oven called?

_____

_____

5. Why does the bowl dry before the kiln?

_____

_____

Words to know

potter: a person who makes bowls and pots from clay
wheel: a round disk that spins
kiln: a very hot oven for baking clay

slick: smooth and a little slippery

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How a Lump of Clay Becomes a Bowl

Triangle group

A potter can turn a plain lump of clay into a bowl. The tool is a spinning wheel.

First, the potter drops the clay in the middle of the wheel. The wheel begins to turn. The potter wets both hands to keep the clay slick.

Next, the potter presses a thumb into the center. This makes a hole. Then the potter squeezes the sides gently. As the wheel spins, the walls rise up and the bowl takes shape.

When the bowl is ready, it dries for a few days. Then it is baked in a very hot oven called a kiln. The heat makes the clay hard and strong. At last, the potter may paint the bowl and bake it again.

Questions

1. What tool does a potter use to shape a bowl?

_____

_____

2. Why does the potter wet both hands?

_____

_____

3. What does the potter do with a thumb?

_____

_____

4. What is the hot oven for baking clay called?

_____

_____

5. Why does the bowl dry before it goes in the kiln?

_____

_____

Words to know

potter: a person who makes bowls and pots from clay
wheel: a round disk that spins
kiln: a very hot oven for baking clay
slick: smooth and a little slippery

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How a Lump of Clay Becomes a Bowl

Square group

A skilled potter can transform a plain lump of clay into a graceful bowl. The most important tool is a spinning wheel.

To begin, the potter drops the clay onto the center of the wheel, and the wheel starts to turn. The potter wets both hands so that the clay stays slick and smooth.

Next, the potter presses a thumb into the middle of the clay to make a hole. Then the potter gently squeezes the sides between both hands. As the wheel keeps spinning, the walls rise upward and the bowl slowly takes shape.

Once the bowl is finished, it must dry for a few days. After that, it is baked in a very hot oven called a kiln. The heat makes the clay hard and strong. Finally, the potter may paint the bowl and bake it a second time.

Questions

1. What is the most important tool a potter uses to shape a bowl?

_____

_____

2. Why does the potter wet both hands?

_____

_____

3. What does the potter do with a thumb at the start?

_____

_____

4. What is the very hot oven used to bake clay called?

_____

_____

5. Why must the bowl dry before it goes into the kiln?

_____

_____

Words to know

potter: a person who makes bowls and pots from clay
wheel: a round disk that spins
kiln: a very hot oven for baking clay
slick: smooth and a little slippery

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: How a Lump of Clay Becomes a Bowl

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: How a Lump of Clay Becomes a Bowl

Easier · 97 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.4

1. A spinning wheel.
2. To keep the clay slick.
3. Presses it in the middle to make a hole.
4. A kiln.
5. Wet clay could be harmed by the heat, so it dries first.

Triangle: How a Lump of Clay Becomes a Bowl

This passage · 121 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. A spinning wheel.
2. To keep the clay slick.
3. Presses it into the center to make a hole.
4. A kiln.
5. Clay that is still wet could be harmed by the heat, so it dries first.

Square: How a Lump of Clay Becomes a Bowl

Harder · 141 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4

1. A spinning wheel.
2. So that the clay stays slick and smooth.
3. Presses it into the middle of the clay to make a hole.
4. A kiln.
5. Clay that is still wet could be harmed by the heat, so it dries first.