

## Key Knowledge

### What is clay?

- Clay is a natural material made up of tiny particles of rock.
- When clay is mixed with water it feel like soft, gluey mud. Unlike plain mud, however, clay holds its shape . It is a very useful building material because it hardens as it dries.
- Clay baked, or fired in an oven becomes especially hard and may last a very long time.
- Prehistoric pottery shows that humans have been using clay for at least 17,500 years.
- Clay is used for making pottery, construction products such as bricks, walls and floor tiles, as well as earthenware, stoneware and porcelain.



**The Terracotta Army** consists of 8000 soldiers, 670 horses and 130 chariots. It was created for Emperor

Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of China, to protect him and help him to keep his power in the afterlife.



**Ancient Egyptian Canopic Jars** were used to store the internal organs a mummy needed for the afterlife – stomach, intestines, lungs and liver.

They were then buried alongside the mummy in the tomb.

## Key Vocabulary

### Word

### Definition

**Compress**

To flatten or squeeze using pressure

**Coil**

A long thin rolled out piece of clay

**Groove**

A long narrow cut in a surface

**Wedging**

The process of kneading clay with the hands to remove air bubbles

## Key Skills



**Scoring** a piece of clay means marking it with a pointed tool.

It is mainly used when joining pieces of clay together.

Both pieces of clay are scored and then a **slip**, which is a mixture of clay and water, is added to both pieces before joining them together. Using this method means the pieces

are much stronger and unlikely to fall apart.



**Carving** is a method of scraping away portions of clay to create a design, shape or pattern



Hollowing Clay is a method by which a loop tool is used to make a hole. This may be as part of a design or to create texture.

## Key clay manipulation tools



**Rib Tools**— Used for shaping and smoothing clay



**Wire loop Tools** — Used for carving, sculpting, trimming texturing and making fine details or coils.



**Needle Tools** — Used for cutting, piercing, scoring and adding fine detail



**Modelling Tools** — Used for creating smooth edges or curves as well as for cutting out lines and adding detail.