

Sculpting with Clay

Clay

Clay comes from the ground, usually in areas where streams or rivers once flowed. It is made from minerals, plant life, and animals—all the ingredients of soil.

Over time, water pressure breaks up the remains plants and minerals and turns them into fine particles that make up clay



Kiln

Furnace or oven for
baking and drying clay
turning it hard

Process of baking clay
called : **Firing**





Stages of Clay

Slip

A lot of water

Runny

Can be used like glue: to stick two pieces of clay together

Smooths edges the clay

Plastic

Acts like play-dough

Moldable

Best for pinching, coiling, and slabbing designs

Leather Hard

After clay dries for a day

Slab construction, with slip

Carving into the clay

Stages of Clay

Bone Dry

Clay is not cool to the touch

Very hard

Ready to be fired

Firing Clay

Bisque

After clay has been fired

Hard to the touch

Glazes can be added at this stage and then clay can be fired again

Techniques

Coiling

Roll the clay into long pieces and wrap them around each other to make a circle shape.

You can pinch clay together or leave in coils.





Slabbing

Roll the clay into long flat pieces and attach together

Pinch clay to attach together



