

Sculpture with clay

Knowledge organiser

Year 4

Pottery and the past

Pottery is one of the most useful things archaeologists find. It lasts a very long time, even as other objects break or rot.

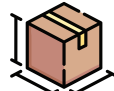
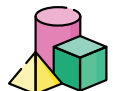
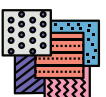
By studying pottery, we can learn important things about people in the past, such as:

- **everyday life** (what people cooked, stored or traded)
- **beliefs** (what people thought about religion, burials and rituals)
- **art and decoration** (the patterns, colours and styles they used)

Different cultures used pottery in different ways, such as Greeks painting myths on vases, Romans using amphorae to carry food and drink, and the Chinese making fine, decorated porcelain.



Key vocabulary

 balance	 carve	 dimension	 form
 imprint	 join	 model	 pattern
 proportion	 texture	 shape	 symbolism

What are canopic jars?

In ancient Egypt, canopic jars were used to keep special body parts (**organs**) safe during **mummification**. The jars were usually placed in tombs.

The **lids** of the jars were shaped like the **heads of the gods known as the Sons of Horus**.

Each god looked after a different organ to protect it for the afterlife. The gods were:

- **Imsety** (human head), who looked after the liver
- **Hapy** (baboon head), who looked after the lungs
- **Duamutef** (jackal head), who looked after the stomach
- **Qebehsenuef** (falcon head), who looked after the intestines



Clay skills and techniques

pinch pot – use your thumb and fingers to shape

coil pot – roll long clay ropes and stack them

score and slip – scratch and use watery clay to stick pieces

carving – cut lines or shapes into the clay

imprinting – pressing objects into clay to make marks

shaping – use hands or tools to change the clay's form



Safety

- Always wash your hands before and after. 
- Keep clay and tools on your table. 
- Use tools safely and only as your teacher shows you. 
- Don't put clay or tools in your mouth. 
- Ask an adult for help if you're not sure. 

