

# Ceramics knowledge organiser

## Vocabulary

**Vessel**- container like a bowl

**Construct**- build or make

**Design**- plan or drawing

**Sculpture**- 3 dimensional art

**Mould**- make form out of material

**Leather hard**- partially dried clay

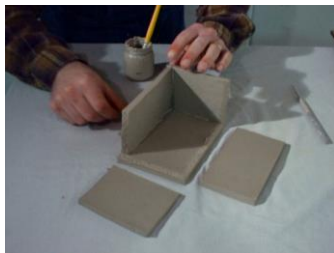
**Decorative**- make art attractive and beautiful

**Bond**- connect two surfaces

## Slab Building

Clay is rolled into sheets - ideally around 1.5cm thick. An even thickness can be achieved by placing **wooden guides** at each side of the clay as it is flattened.

Once the **slabs** have reached a **leather-hard** consistency, they can then easily be cut and used to build a three-dimensional shape.



## Slip

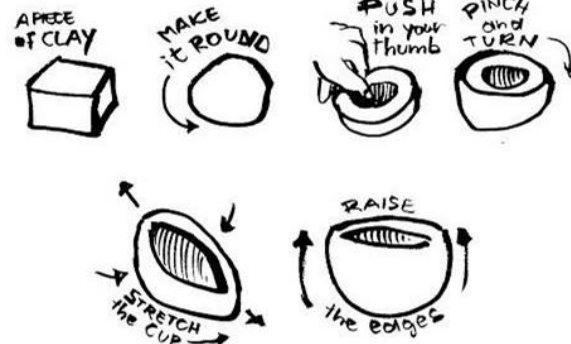
A mixture of clay and water used to bond pieces of clay together, to decorate and protect pottery or it can be poured into a mould and used to cast objects.



**Relief** is a sculptural method in which the sculpted pieces are bonded, using slip, to a solid background of the same material.

## Pinch Pot

**Pinch pots** are a useful way to start a project. You can join two together to make a hollow **structure**, which could form the base of an interesting **sculpture**.



# Tools and Equipment

Here are the tools and equipment used when working with clay



## Kiln

A large oven that bakes dried out clay making it hard wearing

## Pottery Knife

Cutting slabs, tiles, coils and decorative pieces



## Modelling Tools

For smoothing, sculpting, drawing and mark-making



## Wires and wire-ended tools

Decorative carving, shaping and shaving off layers while pots or vessels are thrown



## Wooden Boards

For building work on

## Guides for slab rolling

Ensuring even slab thickness



## Rolling Pin

Rolling out clay

## Banding wheels

Viewing and modifying portrait and sculpture work at all angles

