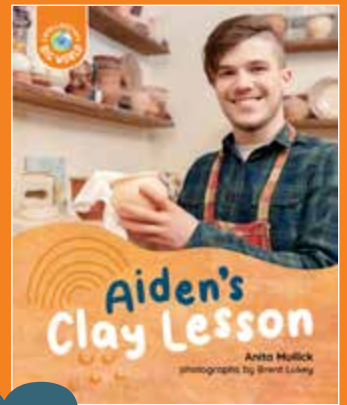


# Stage 7.1: Aiden's Clay Lesson

Read this page to children (it is not decodable). Use the questions and prompts to talk and write about the topic. Read more: it is important to read a range of other books to children to build their vocabulary and comprehension skills. What other books could you read to children about clay and pottery? Or perhaps you might read some more complex procedural texts to children and compare them with this book.



Did you know?

## More about clay

This Roman olive oil lamp made from clay is nearly 2000 years old. The wick would have burned in the hole in the big toe!



Wet clay is soft and squishy. Dry clay is hard and stronger. A glaze makes clay even stronger and waterproof.



Clay objects need to be fully dry before firing. Otherwise, they may **explode**! This is because water expands into steam when heated and needs to escape. Air bubbles in your clay can trap water. You can knead it to remove bubbles – this is called wedging.



Today, clay objects are heated in electric ovens called **kilns** to make them hard. This is called firing. A kiln is around 5 times hotter than your oven!

Clay soil called **adobe** has been used to make bricks in hot, dry places for thousands of years. Bricks are shaped then dried in the sun. Adobe buildings will keep you cool in sizzling temperatures.



## Talk about it

Use the following questions as discussion prompts:

- Have you ever made something from real clay or modelling clay? What did it feel like to shape the clay?
- Is it easy to make something from real clay at home? What things do you need to do to finish your clay object?

## Write about it

Children can write a procedure for making a pinch pot. For each step, they can write a short sentence or caption and draw a picture.

