

Knowledge Organiser - Emma Bridgewater (Y2)

Vocabulary

Potter's Wheel	A potter's wheel is a spinning machine used in the shaping (known as
Mould	A mould is used as a template to shape and structure pottery that cannot easily be made by hand. Moulds are often used when items are being mass produced to ensure precision, consistency and to speed up the making process.
Cast	The process of using a mould.
Knead	Preparing clay for shaping by pushing and rolling it under the palm of your
Slip	A mixture of clay and water used like glue.
Score	To make the surface of the clay rough when putting two pieces together.
Kiln	The type of 'oven' used throughout the firing process.
Fire	To turn the kiln on to heat the clay.
Earthenware	Ceramic pottery made of slightly porous opaque clay which has been fired



Key Facts

The company was founded by Emma Bridgewater in 1985, when she was looking for a birthday present for her mother. Wanting to buy a cup and saucer but being unable to find any she liked, Emma created her own. Drawing four shapes, a mug, a bowl, a jug and a dish, samples were created in Stoke-on-Trent. Matthew, Emma's husband, also designs for Emma Bridgewater.

Description of Work: Emma specialises in pottery with motifs drawing on techniques stretching back over 200 years. Every mug produced at the factory is made through a process called mould casting. From a blank model, a highly absorbent plaster mould is cast from it. Once cast, the pottery is decorated using sponges to print before



Key Questions

Why is clay used for pottery? Clay is very suitable for pottery making. It has elasticity characteristics which means that vessels or pots can be moulded into different shapes easily. There are many different types of clay which are suitable for different purposes.

Why are earthenware clays used for pottery? Earthenware clays were some of the earliest clays used by potters, and it is the most common type of clay found. These clays are easily worked, and can be sticky. Earthenware clays contain iron and other minerals which cause the clay to reach its optimum hardness at lower temperatures, between 1745 °F and 2012 °F (950 °C and 1100 °C). Typical colours for moist earthenware clays are red, orange, yellow, and light grey. Colours for fired earthenware includes brown, red, orange, buff, medium grey, and white. Fired colours are in a large part determined by the content of mineral impurities and the type of firing. Terracotta, which means quite literally "baked earth", is one of the most popular types of earthenware.

Why must earthenware be fired and glazed? During the firing process, the water inside the clay evaporates and the item shrinks. This makes the clay more solid in order to increase durability. The clay is then glazed in order to make it watertight.

Examples of her work



Techniques to Try



Roll a ball of clay.



Creating holes or hollows.



Scratching details with tools.



Pulling and pinching the clay with your fingers.



Smoothing out the clay with your fingers.



Squeezing the clay.



Rolling the clay.

'If you can imagine the solution you want, that's half the job.'