

Module 5

Pots and Pottery

Learn how to make pots like they did long ago

Curriculum Linkages and Integration

See Teacher Guidelines for additional information



SESE History

INFANT CLASSES

STRAND: Story
Strand Unit: Stories

1st & 2nd CLASSES

Strand: Myself and my family
Strand Unit: Feasts and festivals in the past

STRAND: Story
Strand Unit: Stories

3rd & 4th CLASSES

STRAND: Local Studies
Strand Unit: Feasts and festivals in the past

STRAND: Story
Strand Unit: Stories from the lives of people in the past

STRAND: Early peoples and ancient societies
Strand Unit: Stone Age peoples

STRAND: Continuity and change over time
Strand Unit: Food and farming

5th & 6th CLASSES

STRAND: Local Studies
Strand Unit: Feasts and festivals in the past

STRAND: Story
Strand Unit: Stories from the lives of peoples in the past
Strand Unit: Myths and legends

STRAND: Early peoples and ancient societies
Strand Unit: Stone Age peoples

STRAND: Continuity and change over time
Strand Unit: Food and farming

LINKAGES



SESE Geography
- Human environments
- Natural environments



SESE Science
- Living things
- Energy and forces
- Materials
- Environmental awareness and care



Mathematics
- Shape and space
- Early mathematical activities
- Measures
- Number
- Data



SPHE
- Myself
- Myself and others
- Myself and the wider world



Visual Arts
- Drawing
- Construction
- Fabric and fibre
- Clay
- Paint and colour



Gaeilge
- Éisteacht
- Labhairt
- Scríbhneoireacht
- Léitheoireacht



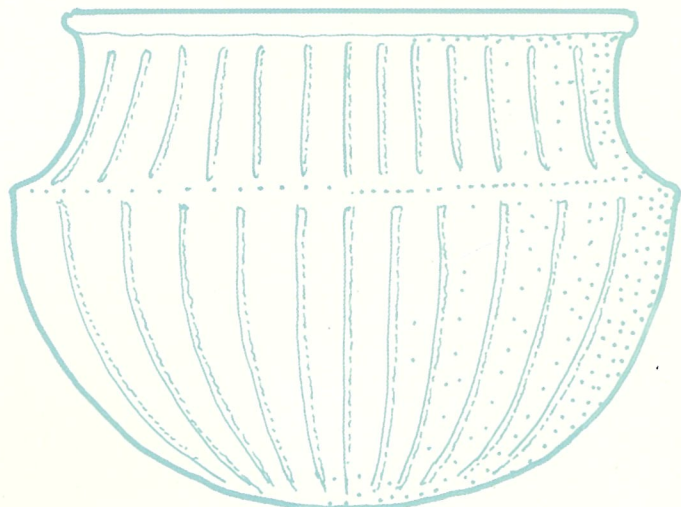
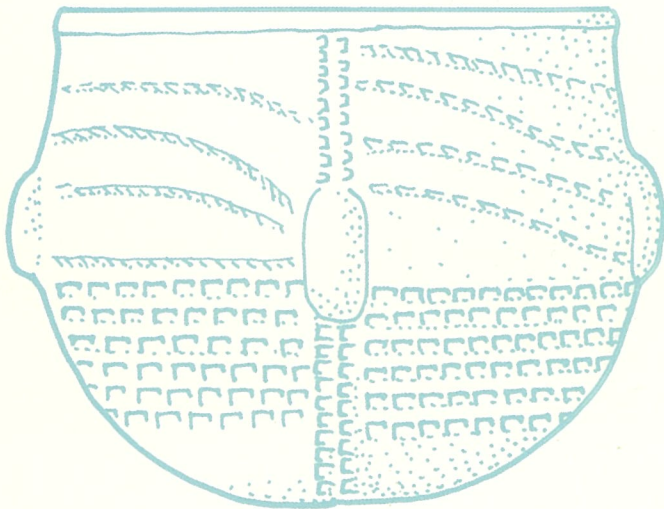
Drama
- Exploring and making drama
- Co-operating and communicating in making drama



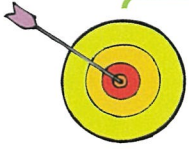
English
- Receptiveness to language
- Competence and confidence
- Developing cognitive abilities through language
- Emotional and imaginative development through language

*"We learnt lots of things
We made pots
It was the best"*

1st Class Pupil



OBJECTIVE



Through observation and hands-on experience the pupils learn how to make clay pots. From this they get an insight into the skills and crafts of **Stone Age** farmers. (Neolithic)

AGE APPROPRIATENESS



This module is suitable for all classes.

To manage the module for each age group, see Teacher Guidelines



MATERIALS REQUIRED



- Modelling clay (e.g. New Clay or Terracotta Clay)
- Decorating material - shells, twine, pencil etc
- Poster paints
- PVA glue

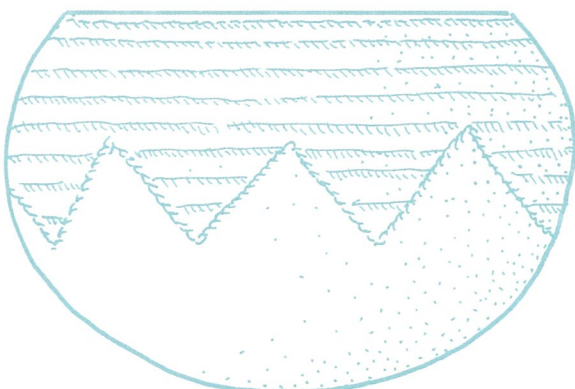
Activity Sheets (AS)

- Farming in the Stone Age (AS1)
- Drawing Neolithic Pots (AS2)
- Decorating a Neolithic Pot (AS3)
- Crafts and Skills of the Stone Age (AS4)

PREPARATION

The arrival of farming is one of the most important events in Irish history. This happened during the Stone Age (Neolithic).

Discuss the changes that farming made to food supply, and how farmers needed to clear forests to make farmland (AS1). How did they chop down trees? Stone Age farmers built solid timber houses and large stone tombs (see **Module 6**). They also knew how to make clay pots (AS2 and AS3). Think of all the uses they had for such pots.



Fragments of pottery are amongst the most numerous artefacts found in archaeological excavations



Let's get started!

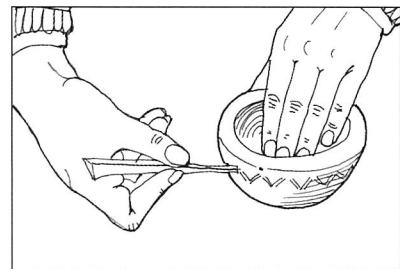
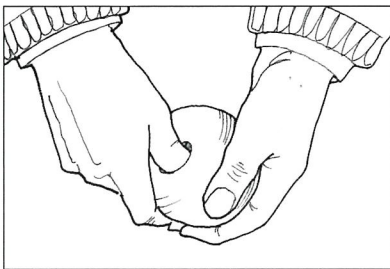
Setting the Scene

The pupils are Neolithic (Stone Age) farmers. The adults are busy ploughing fields and planting corn. The young people in the community are expected to make new pots. The pupils will make these pots.

The Activity

Pinch Pot

Making a pinch pot is a quick and easy way to create a small vessel. This technique was common in the Stone Age. Take the clay out of the bag and demonstrate how to make a pinch pot before giving out the clay to the pupils (note that clay begins to dry as soon as warm hands handle it!).



- Roll the clay into a ball and place in the left hand. Stick thumb into centre of ball, being careful not to go all the way through
- Slowly pinch the clay between the forefingers and thumb, at the same time rotating the ball of clay. Soon a cavity is formed - be careful not to make walls too thin. An eggcup size cavity would be a suitable size to aim for or just a little bigger.
- Drop pot (gently) on the table to form a base.
- Decorate external walls using impressions of shells or string. Use the point of a pencil to make dots or stab-and-drag decoration. Put maker's name on the base. **(AS2)**
- Leave to dry slowly. Once dry it can be painted and coated with PVA, or if using *Real Clay* fired in a kiln.

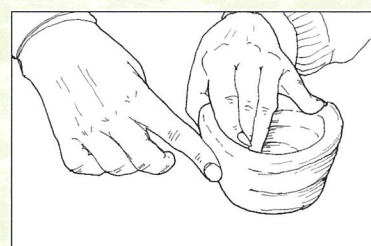
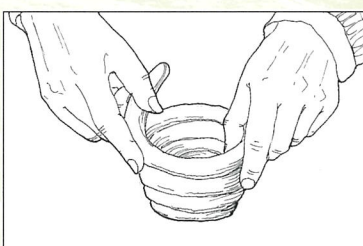
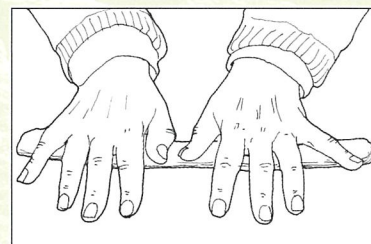
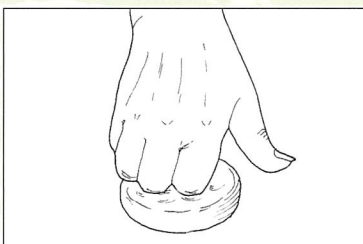


Prompt: Small pots like these are sometimes found in graves. Why do you think they were put there? (**clue:** some pots like these are referred to as Food Vessels)

Coil Pot

Make a larger pot using the coil technique. This was the main method used for making clay pots in the Stone Age.

- Make a circular level base (approx. 8cm in diameter and 1.5cm thick)
- Take a lump of clay and roll it out into an even rounded coil (diameter approx. 1.5cm).
Caution - when rolling the clay, do not apply too much pressure or it will become oval.
- Place the coil on the base and spiral around in layers raising the wall vertically until the coil ends.
- Join all the joints (both inside and out) between the coils by smearing the clay with index finger. There should be no coil joints visible at the end.
- Make and apply another coil and smear the joints. (Make the pot up to roughly 15cm high - any higher and the clay would have to dry out a bit before applying more coils).
- Decorate and dry, in a similar way as the pinch pot.



Prompt: Unfinished pots can be wrapped in a plastic bag; this enables the clay to retain enough moisture to be worked with next day.

Closing Activity

Using AS1 and AS4 explore the different crafts and skills of Stone Age farmers.

Weblinks



How to make a coil pot
www.jhpottery.com

Teacher's Log

"The pupils really enjoyed having a concrete connection with the Stone Age people. Pupils with SEN enjoyed the tactile experience and were very proud of their work".

2nd Class Teacher

Key Terms

- Neolithic
- Pinch Pot
- Coil Pot

