



Project Idea: Sculpt a Coil Pot

Recommended for Step 3: Figure out function, Choice 3: Make anything else

Setup: A pot's function is to hold things. There are many ways to make a pot. You can pinch a ball of clay into a pot. You can use a potter's wheel to create one, too. You can even turn a clay snake into a pot! Building a pot by coiling long ropes, or snakes, of clay around in a circle on top of each other is a way people have been making pots for thousands of years.

Materials needed:

- Modeling clay that will dry hard
- Clay tools, such as forks, spoons, hair pins, etc.
- Paint and brushes (optional)

Activity:

1. Roll out the clay so there are no air bubbles in it.
2. Create long ropes, or snakes, with clay.
3. Scratch, or score, the snakes to help them fit together better when you coil them.
4. Coil or loop them around in a circle to create the bottom of the pot. Add coils around the edge of the bottom to build up the sides. Press the coils together to make the sides stable. Add coils to make the walls of the pot as high as you want.
5. Smooth the inside of the pot with your fingers or a scraping tool, such as a spoon. You can leave the outside ridges or smooth them out.
6. Tinker with the pot. For example:
 - ▶ Score the outside with the tools to add texture.
 - ▶ Paint it once it's dry.
 - ▶ Use leftover clay to make a lid.

