Hands on History at Home

You may need adult help with this activity.
You can share your photos via our Facebook page.

Creative Clay

Have a go at the ancient art of pottery and make something both beautiful and useful.

Humans have created clay pots for around 6000 years. We still make things from clay now!

Fashions change over time, so **archaeologists** can sometimes tell how **old a piece of pottery** is from the **shape, colours and patterns**.

Pots were useful for **storing food** and liquids because clay is easy to **mould** and **shape.** However, once it is baked in a fire or oven it goes as hard as stone so that it can keep food safe.

Vikings would have baked their pots close to a fire, like the one in our Crofters' Cottage at Ryedale Folk Museum.

Have a look around your house and see if you can find any pottery. Which rooms is it in? What is it used for?

In this activity, you can make your own salt dough that can be shaped into lots of different pots then you can bake them the oven until hard.

Salt Dough Recipe

250g of plain flour

125g of salt

125 ml of water

Mix together until a dough is formed.

You can shape the dough, using your fingers, then bake in the oven on its coolest setting.

Bake for 3 hours until solid.

You can paint your pots when they are cool.

Could you make a pot for our Iron Age roundhouse?

Why not share a photo of your pot on our Facebook page?