

# Coil Pottery

Coil pottery is one of the earliest techniques for making pots from clay. Many ancient civilizations and cultures around the world have made coil pottery. They come in all sizes, large or small. Some were used for storage or everyday use, and others for special purposes. Anthropologists use ancient pottery to learn more about the people and cultures of the past. This activity is brought to you by Krishnapriya, a teaching artist with the [South Asia Center](#) at the University of Pennsylvania.



## Hopi Coiled Pot

This pot [in the Penn Museum collection](#) was made by the people of the [Hopi Tribe](#) living in Arizona. It is a small coil pot that could fit in the palm of your hand. Do you see the face painted on the inside?

How do you think this pot might have been used? Was it used every day, or for a special purpose?

What kinds of containers do you use everyday?

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What kinds of materials are they made of?

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Do they have patterns, designs printed on them? And what are the different colours they come in?

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Let's get ready to make our own coil pottery!

## THINGS YOU WILL NEED:

<p>Clay</p>  <p>*Use <a href="#">this recipe</a> to make your own air dry clay at home.</p>	<p>Sculpting Tools</p>  <p>*You can use toothpicks, teaspoons, chopsticks, etc.</p>	<p>Paint and Brush</p> 
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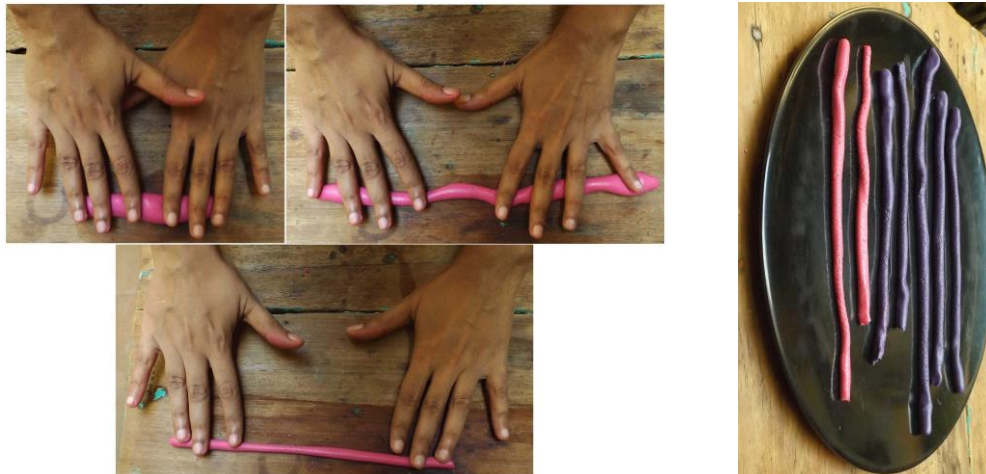
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## DIRECTIONS:

**STEP 1:** Knead the clay. Squeeze the clay in the palm of your hands making a sausage-like shape.



**STEP 2:** Role the clay into long coils. Set your coils aside.



**STEP 3:** Flatten some clay to make a slab; this will be your base. Trim the edges to create a circular base.



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**STEP 4:** Start placing the coils on the base, adding one on top of the other.



**STEP 5:** Once you know the basic technique you can make any shape and it can be any size. Let your pottery dry overnight.



**BONUS:** After your pot has dried, use paint to create a unique design, all your own!

