

CERAMICS VOCABULARY

1. **CLAY** Weathered or decomposed igneous rock
2. **PRIMARY CLAY** Clay that has weathered and decomposed in its original location
3. **SECONDARY OR SEDIMENTARY CLAY** Clay that is deposited (usually by water) at a distance from the original location
4. **CLAY BODY** A mixture of clays designed to have certain characteristics
5. **EARTHENWARE** Clay that is fired to a low temperature (less than 1000 C); usually sedimentary, porous, contains impurities
6. **STONEWARE** Clay that is fired to a high temperature (1200+ C); is strong, waterproof, heavier than earthenware
7. **SLIP** Clay in liquid form
8. **PLASTIC** The form in which clay can be formed and manipulated
9. **LEATHER-HARD** Clay that is still damp but no longer plastic—can be carved or joined together but not formed
10. **GREENWARE (BONE DRY)** Unfired clay completely dried out and ready for firing

11. **BISQUE** Clay that has been fired once, usually at a low temperature. The clay undergoes a chemical change (quartz inversion) making it waterproof and no longer reclaimable
12. **KILN** An oven or furnace in which ceramics are fired
13. **FURNITURE** Shelves and posts used inside a kiln for stacking layers of pieces to be fired
14. **FIRING** Clay is heated to a high temperature, fusing clay and glaze particles and removing all water
15. **MATURING TEMPERATURE** Temperature at which clay or glazed becomes vitrified
16. **GLAZE** A liquid applied to bisque ware and fired to form a glass-like surface
17. **SILICA** Glass-forming material in glaze
18. **FLUX** Material added to glaze to lower the melting point of silica
19. **COLORANT** Metal oxide or other material added to glaze to give it color

20. **SLAB** Flat pieces of clay that are cut to shape and joined together
21. **COIL** Long strands or ropes of clay that are laid on top of each other and joined together
22. **SGRAFFITO** Decorating the surface of a clay piece by scratching designs into leather-hard clay
23. **ENGOBE** A mixture of liquid clay and colorant (colored slip) used to decorate leather-hard clay
24. **INLAY** Designs are cut into the surface of the clay, then contrasting colored clay or slip is laid into the incised line
25. **FUNCTIONAL** Has a use—e.g., mug, bowl, vase, etc.
26. **SCULPTURAL** No function except as an art object
27. **SLAKE BUCKET** A bucket where unfired clay scraps and water are mixed for recycling