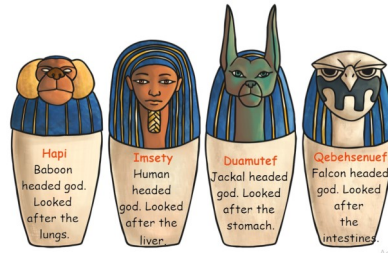


Thinking like an Artist... Canopic Jars

Canopic jars are containers used by the Ancient Egyptians to put the organs in that were removed from the body in the process in mummification. The jars contained four organs: the lungs, liver, intestines and stomach.

Each jar has the head of an animal god, one or the four sons of the god Horus, There are believed to protect the organs as the persons soul moved into the afterlife.



Carving

Carving is a technique where marks and cuts are made in a material to create a piece of art.

Carving can be done with a tool such as a knife but can also be done with any sharpened item e.g. a pencil.



Lines can be carved straight or curved and even to create letters and words.



Canopic jars evolved over time. They began as simple jars with flat lids that would have been made from stone.



They then evolved to having human heads. They were still simple and made from stone.



The final version of the Canopic jars have animal heads, each of the four sons of Horus. These were made from stone or carved from wood.

Clay

Clay is a stiff, sticky earth that can be moulded when wet, and is dried and baked to make bricks, pottery, and ceramics.



Clay can be manipulated in many ways such as rolling and pinching.



Clay can be scored and moulded in different ways using fingers and tools.



1. Use a pointed tool to carve lines into the 2 clay parts you want to attach.
2. Mix some water and small bits of clay together and apply it on top of the score lines.
3. Attach the pieces together.



1. Add a little bit of clay onto the part you want to change.
2. Smooth it over with your finger.
3. Add a small amount of water and blend it in.

Clay can also be joined by using slip (a water and clay mixture) used as a glue.



Learning Questions

How did the Egyptians create Canopic jars?

How can you attach pieces of clay to your jars?

What will happen to the clay when we leave it overnight?

What will you use to carve your jar? Why?

Key Vocabulary

Clay	An earthy material that is sticky and easily moulded when wet and hardens when dried.
Score	Marking clay with a tool to decorate or prepare for joining.
Slip	A mixture of clay and water to create a paste. This can then be used as a glue to join pieces of clay.
Join	To connect two or more pieces together.
Mould	To form an item or object out of a malleable material.
Carve	Cut a material to produce an object or design.
Pinch	Using a thumb and finger to gently shape a piece of clay.