

## NATIVE AMERICAN POTTERY: BUILD YOUR OWN COIL POT!

### Activity Materials

- air-dry clay
- wax paper (or other clean, dry surface)
- decorating tool\*

\*We used a stick, but you could use a pen, pencil, stamp, or anything else to create designs on your pot!



### Activity Instructions



**Step 1:** Take a small piece of clay about the size of a ping pong ball and roll it into a ball. Then, press it onto a clean, flat surface using your palm to create the base of your pot.





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**Step 2:** Next, take another piece of clay and begin rolling it out into a long, thin strand of clay. It should be even in thickness along the entire length. Keep practicing until you feel confident that you can create long, even ropes of clay.



**Step 3:** Next, you'll start coiling those ropes around the outside of the base. As you coil upward, you are creating the shape of your pot.

**Step 4:** Great job! You've created a coil pot. Now it's time to decorate! You have so many options. You could press something into the clay – like the wooden paddle stamps used by Natives, incise a decoration, or create a series of small dots known as punctations!





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**Learn more about historic pottery in Georgia using the links below:**

### Leake Mounds Interpretive Trail

The Georgia Department of Transportation developed this interactive webpage about the Leake Site in Bartow County, Georgia:

<http://www.dot.ga.gov/BuildSmart/Programs/CulturalResources/Pages/Leakemound.aspx>

### Bartow County's Leake Site

Bartow County created a webpage with photo examples of Swift Creek ceramic designs from the Leake Site: <https://bartowdig.com/swiftcreek.html>

### Florida Museum's Ceramic Technology Lab

The Florida Museum has a photo gallery of its Georgia type collection available at the following link: <https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/ceramiclab/georgia/>

### New Georgia Encyclopedia: Stallings Island

The New Georgia Encyclopedia website has a substantial collection of articles related to Georgia history. This page specifically discusses the Stallings Island Sites in Georgia:

<https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/stallings-island-site/>

Scan the QR code below to visit the Pottery Exhibit page on New South's Portal to the Past where you can learn more about Native communities, their ancestors, and the traditions that they continue to practice today.

