

## Reading Selection

**Have You Seen Sand or Clay Today?**

Have you ever played with sand? Have you made shapes with clay? Human beings have always been curious about soil. A long time ago, people thought about soil and got an idea. Maybe they could turn soil into something pretty or strong. So they experimented. They found many ways to use sand and clay.

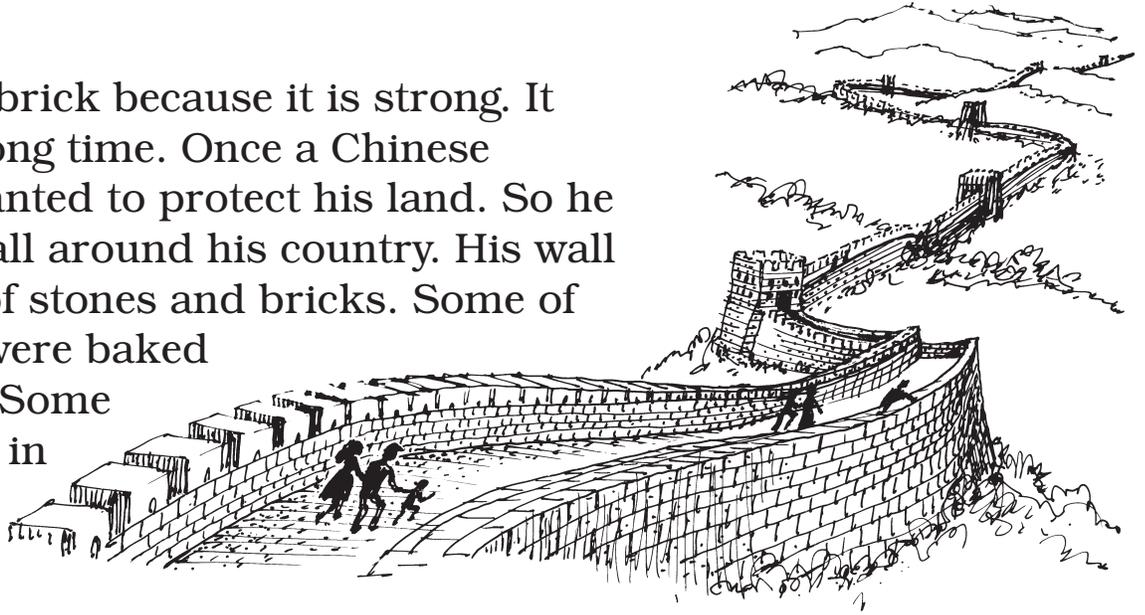


Have you ever seen a brick house? That house is made of clay. Bricks are made by shaping wet clay. In the United States, most bricks are baked in a special oven. As the bricks are baking, the clay gets very hard.



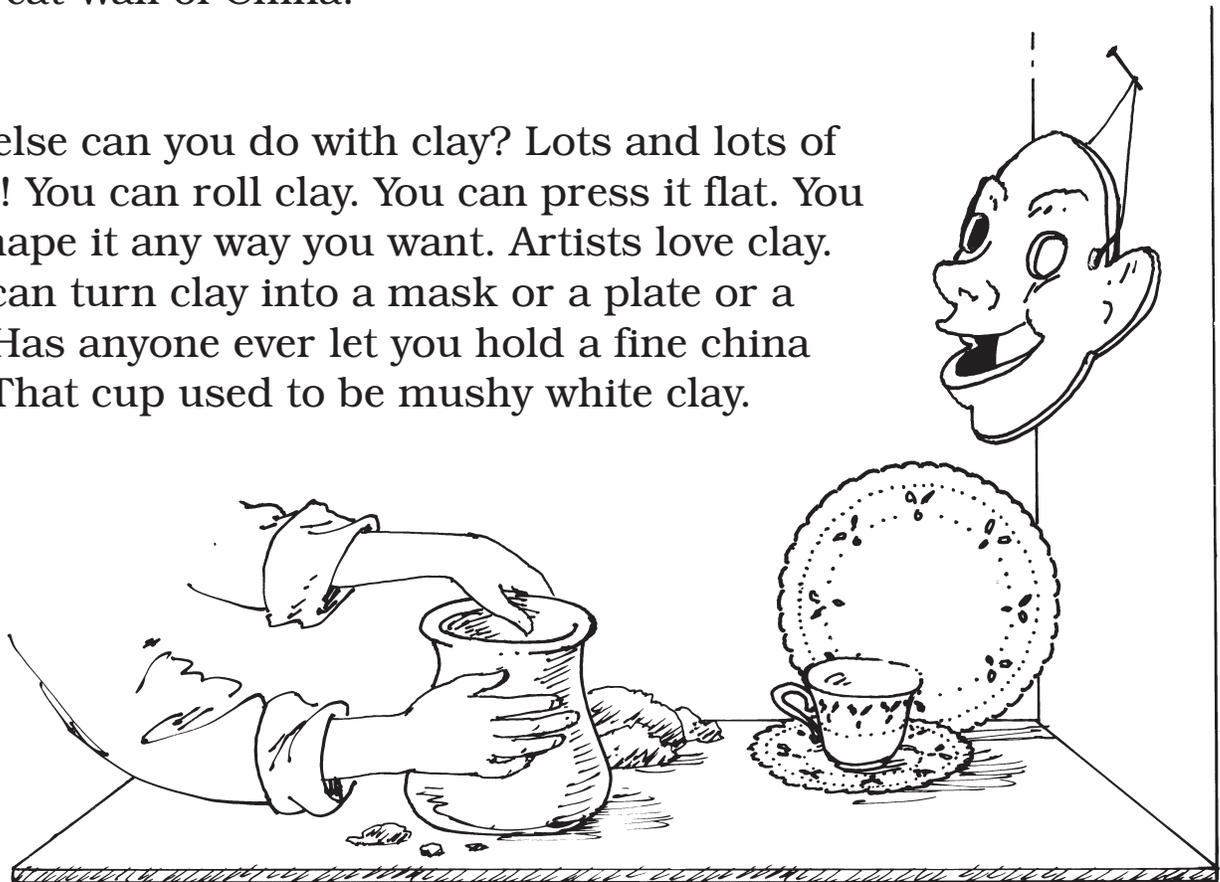
Some American Indians make a different kind of brick. It is called **adobe**. Indians have used adobe for a very long time. To make adobe, the Indians mix clay with straw. Then they let the adobe bricks dry in the sun. The heat from the sun bakes the adobe and makes it very hard.

People like brick because it is strong. It can last a long time. Once a Chinese emperor wanted to protect his land. So he put a big wall around his country. His wall was made of stones and bricks. Some of his bricks were baked in an oven. Some were baked in the sun.

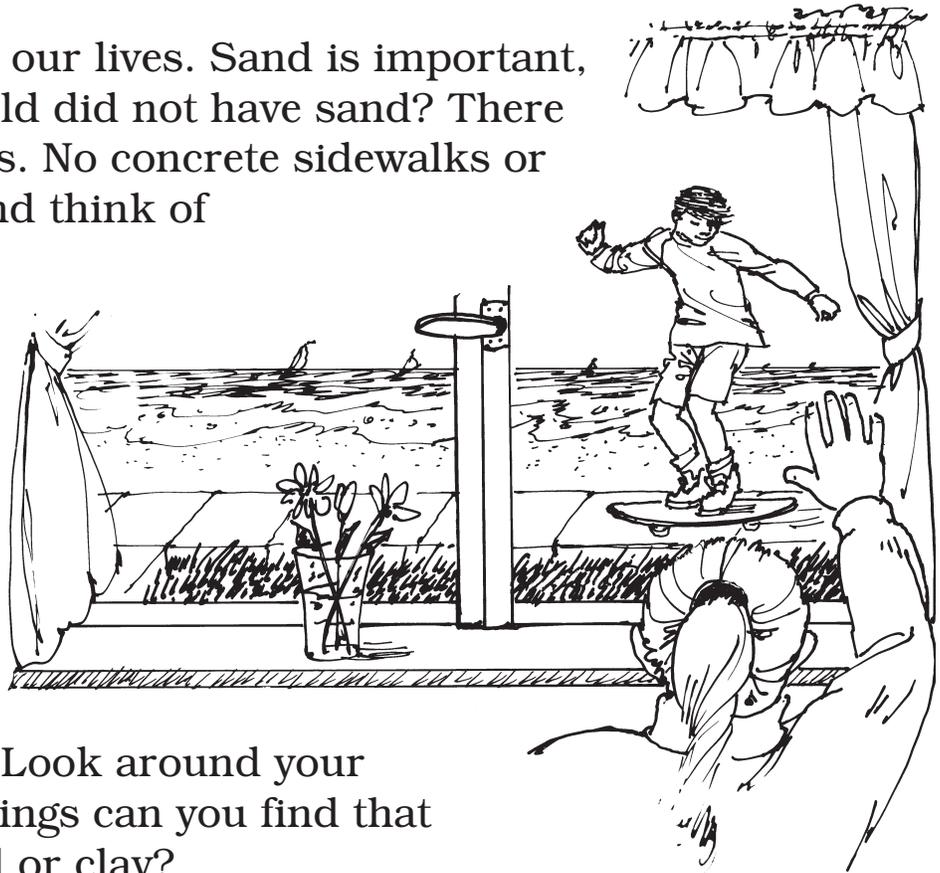


His wall was built more than two thousand years ago. It lasted for hundreds of years. When the bricks started to break, people in China made new bricks. The wall is still there today. We call it the Great Wall of China.

What else can you do with clay? Lots and lots of things! You can roll clay. You can press it flat. You can shape it any way you want. Artists love clay. They can turn clay into a mask or a plate or a vase. Has anyone ever let you hold a fine china cup? That cup used to be mushy white clay.



Clay is important in our lives. Sand is important, too. What if our world did not have sand? There would be no beaches. No concrete sidewalks or concrete bridges. And think of a world with no windows. We would have to say goodbye to glass because glass is made from sand!

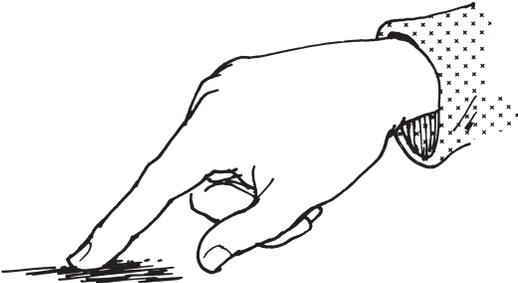


Have you seen sand or clay today? Look around your room. How many things can you find that are made from sand or clay?

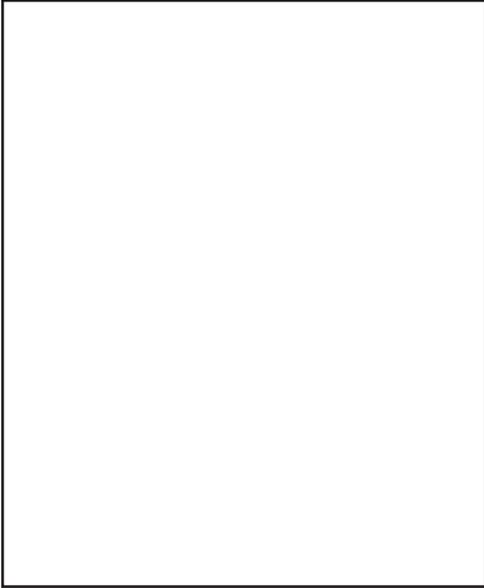
**Record Sheet 5-A**

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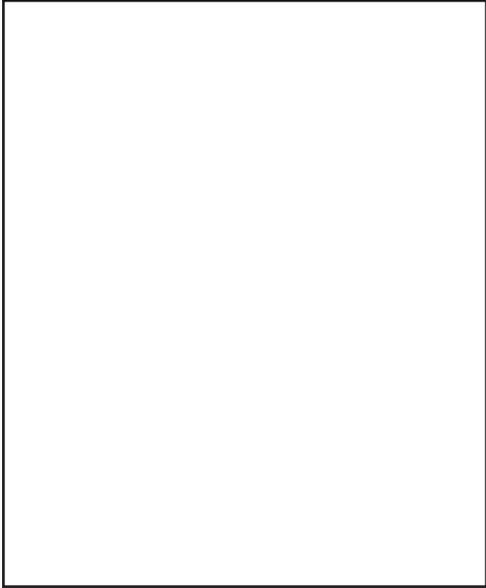
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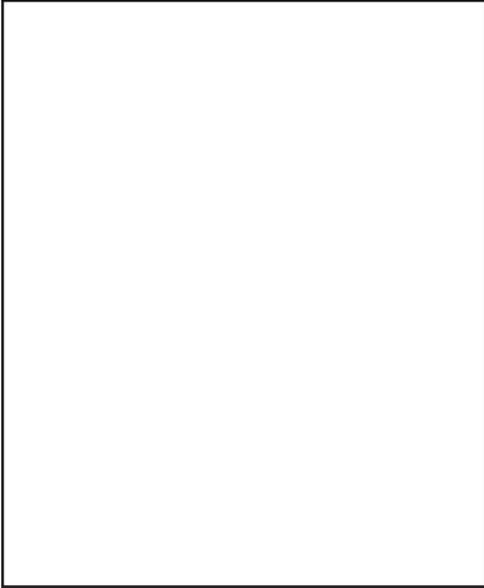
**Make a Smear**



Sand



Clay



Humus