



The Clay Corridor

The Clay Corridor is a part of Southeastern Ohio which includes Muskingum, Perry and Athens counties. A lot of pottery is made in this



Examples of Ohio pottery

Courtesy of Dale Hague

region because the clay is good and is easy to dig. It is often found with a layer of coal just above it. Early potters probably dug the clay and the coal at the same time and used the coal to fire their kilns. Today, the clay and the coal are mined together but are sold separately. While much of the clay is used in its mining area, a lot of clay from Southeastern Ohio is shipped to factories in the United

States and around the world.

In ancient times, the people living in this region used clay dug from hills and creek beds. They would remove stones from the clay and shape it by hand into cooking pots and storage containers. They baked their pottery in open fires or pits dug into hillsides.

Today clay is dug and processed with tools and shaped on rotating potters wheels or in plaster molds. Large round brick structures, called beehive kilns, were used to fire their ware. Pottery is made in factories, called potteries. The clay is mined and processed by machines. This pottery is fired in large kilns that burn natural gas. Even though a lot of pottery is made in factories, people still make pottery by hand, one piece at a time.

