**A close-up of a logo

Description automatically generatedEarly Bronze Age Beakers**

**What are they?**

Beakers are a type of pottery that dates from the Early Bronze Age (**c.2400-1600 BC**). The people who made and used Beakers began arriving in Britain from Europe around 2400 BC bringing with them not only a new style of pottery but also the knowledge of how to make objects from metal.

Beakers have decoration all over their surface made by either drawing a sharp tool through the soft clay or by pressing wooden tools, small bones or fingernails into it. Below are images of two different Beakers, both of which are beautifully decorated.

A clay pot with a pattern

Description automatically generatedA close-up of a vase

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**Two different Beakers, both beautifully decorated.**

**What were they used for?**

Archaeologists think Beakers were used as drinking vessels as well as for cooking and storing food. They were also used during funerals, often being placed in a grave next to the dead person’s body.

**A close-up of a logo

Description automatically generatedHow were they made?**

Beakers were made by hand without the use of a potter’s wheel. Sausage-shaped coils of clay were rolled out and placed one on top of the other to form the walls of the pot. The images below show how a Beaker was made. The decoration was added while the clay was still soft and then the whole thing was then left to dry. Finally, the pot was placed on a bonfire where the heat of the flames hardened the clay even more.

A close-up of a vase

Description automatically generatedA drawing of a pot

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**Coils of clay are placed one on top of the other to form the walls of the pot.**

**Activity**

Try making your own Beaker using coils of air-drying clay and then use different techniques to decorate it. Below are examples of decoration made using twisted cord, sharpened pencils, fingernails and fingertips on slabs of air-drying clay.

A group of clay objects with imprints

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**Different types of decoration on slabs of air-drying clay.**