



1 New colors, techniques, and decorations made the pottery of Muslim civilization among the world's finest.

2 Pottery was used for everyday activities, such as cooking and washing, as well as for trade and decoration.



3 Everyday pottery was used and then thrown away, much the way we do with paper cups and plates today.

4 One 14th-century historian estimated the value of pottery that ended up daily on trash heaps to be about a thousand dinars—about 10 pounds (4.5 kg) of gold!



5 By adding more lead to their glazes, Muslims made pots that were leakproof and able to hold liquid.

6 Potters in the Muslim world discovered that adding tin oxide to lead glaze produced a pure white porcelain similar to that being made in China.

7 Blue-on-white decoration became a signature of the Abbasid potters.



8 Baghdad and Samarra, Iraq, were among the chief pottery centers in Muslim civilization.



9 Three types of pots were most often made: white pots decorated with cobalt blue, pots decorated with two-tone stripes, and pots that had a special metallic luster.

10 Eighth-century potters in Iraq revolutionized pottery by developing a process called "luster" that made clay objects look as though they were made of precious metals.

11 Islamic law prohibits the use of gold or silver containers, so the luster technique became a way of making luxury items without breaking the law.

12 The luster technique was also used to make decorative tiles that made the outsides of mosques and castles appear to shimmer.



13 Unglazed pots for everyday use, such as carrying water and eating and drinking, were called *qādūs*.

14 Iznik, Turkey, was a thriving pottery center widely known for its blue-and-white tiles even to this day.

15 Iznik pottery typically featured floral designs painted on with glazes of cobalt blue, turquoise, and green and then outlined in black with tomato-red highlights.



Handcrafts for sale in a market in Morocco