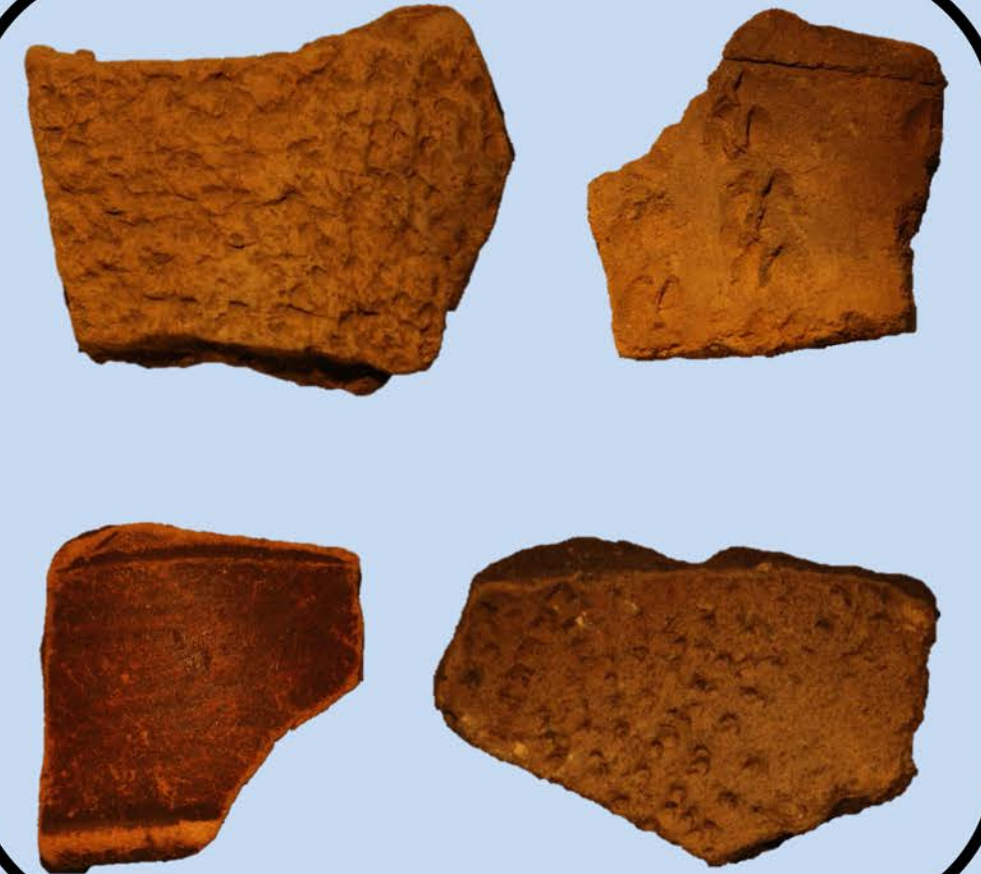
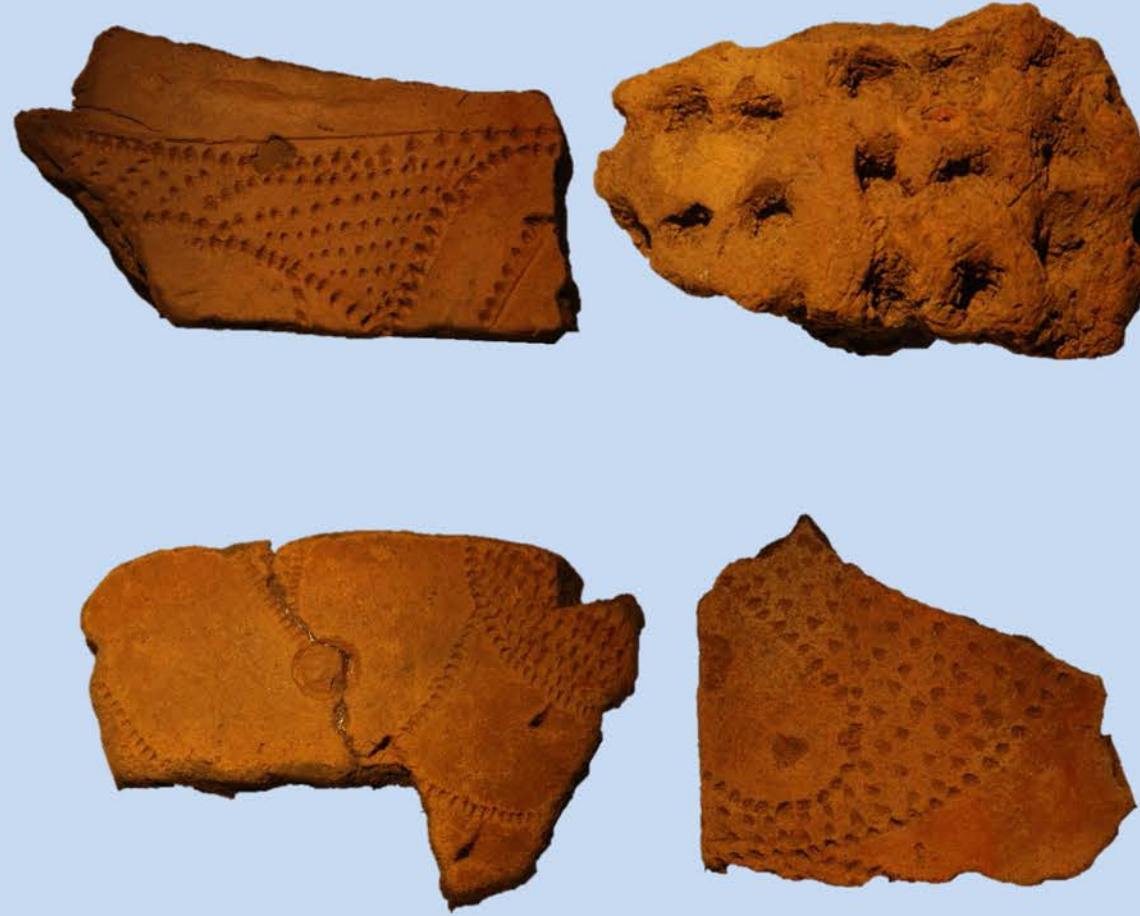


POTTERY GUIDE SURFACE TREATMENT

Incised

Punctated

Other



Complicated Stamped

Check Stamped

Stamped



IDENTIFYING TEMPER

TEMPER is any material added to clay to make it stronger and more resilient. It helps the vessel to survive the firing process and have a longer use-life. Many materials are used to temper prehistoric pottery. Basic temper identification involves using sight and touch but chemical analyses can be used for more advanced testing. Use the tips listed below to help you identify temper types popular in Florida.



SAND TEMPERED

- Gritty, sandpaper feel
- Sherd can crumble to the touch
- Sand granules can be visible in cross section and on surface of sherd
- Sand granules can glisten when the sherd is rotated in the light
- Sherds can be heavy even when small



LIMESTONE TEMPERED

- Rough to the touch
- Limestone visible as white chunks in cross section and on surface
- Can have empty holes in surface and cross section where limestone leached out after being in the ground for a long period of time
- Sherds can be heavy even when small



SHELL TEMPERED

- Shell visible as white and platy bits visible in cross section
- Can usually see white splotches on surface of sherd
- Made of thinner shell types such as mussels and clams



SPONGE SPICULE TEMPERED

- Cross section is dense, no temper material is visible to naked eye
- Chalky and soft to the touch
- Sherds are usually very light regardless of size
- Vessels tend to break along coil lines creating long, thin sherds
- Sherds can be worn down and rounded on the broken edges