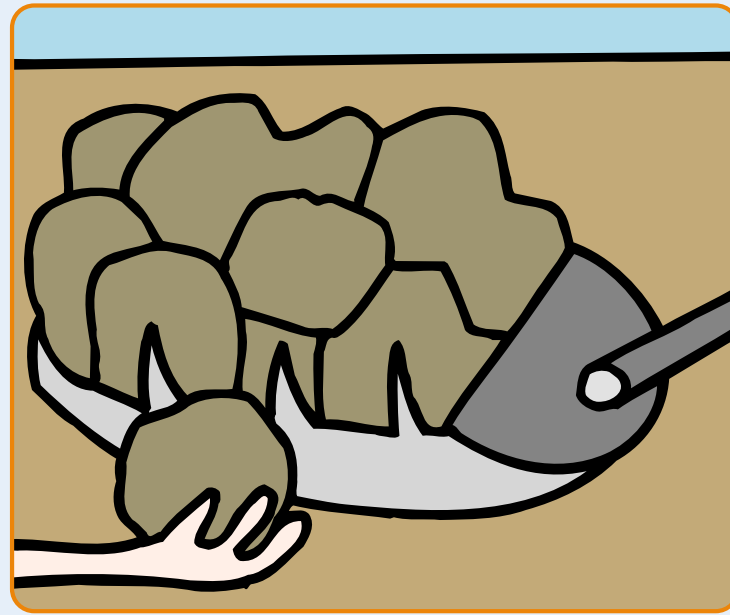
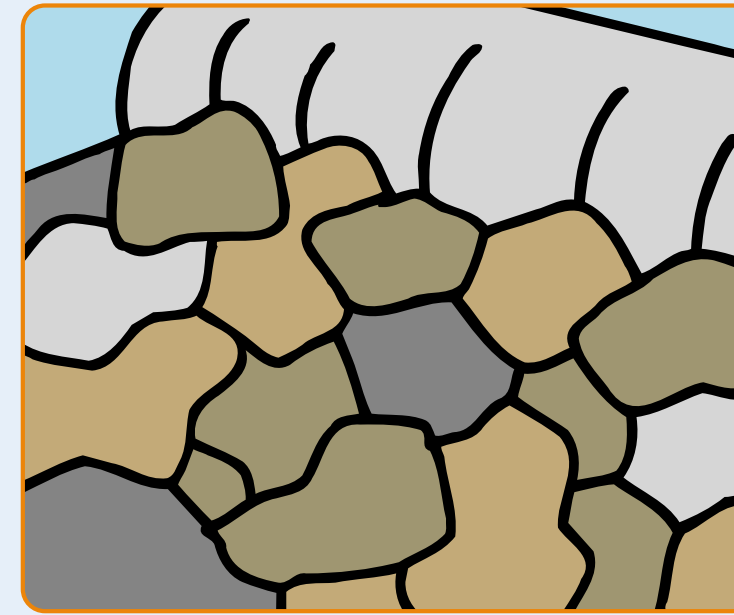


BUILDING A BRICK

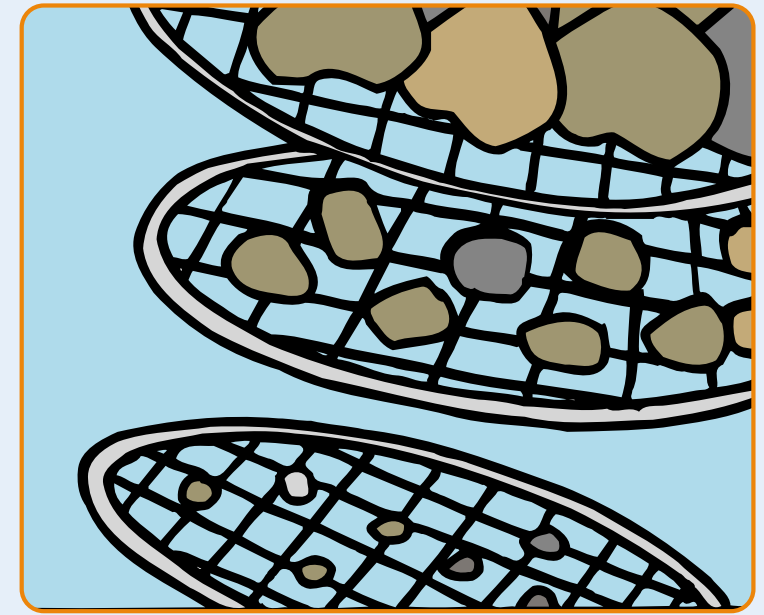
If you want a wall built, Mort's your man! Short or tall, I build them all – and they all use some sort of brick. Here's how those basic building blocks are made



1 Clay is excavated from the quarry using a huge mechanical digger. Each lump that is dug out is called a knot



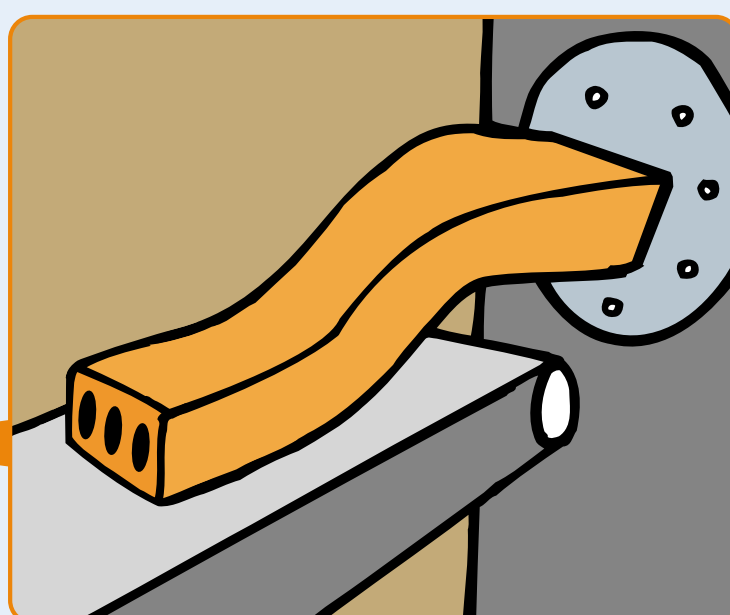
2 Massive metal rods called crushers break down the knots of clay into smaller pieces so they can be processed



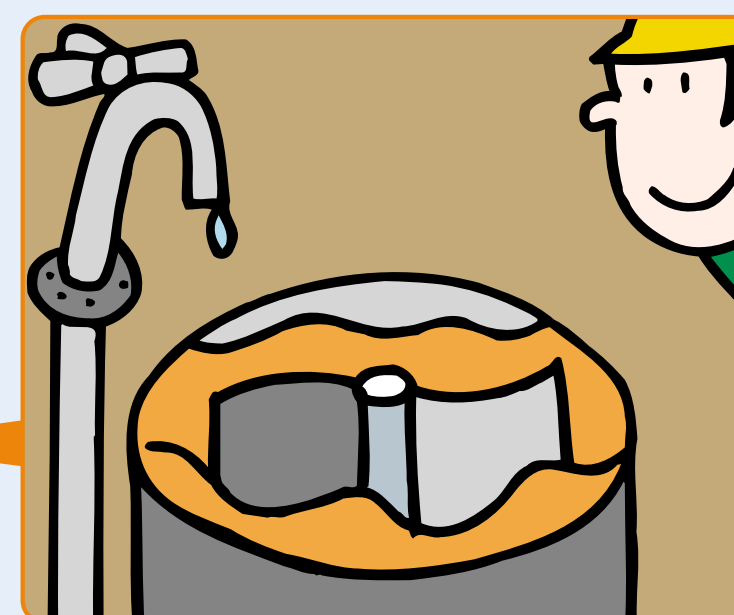
3 These are pushed through sieves called screens to make even smaller pieces. Lime, shale and sand may be added



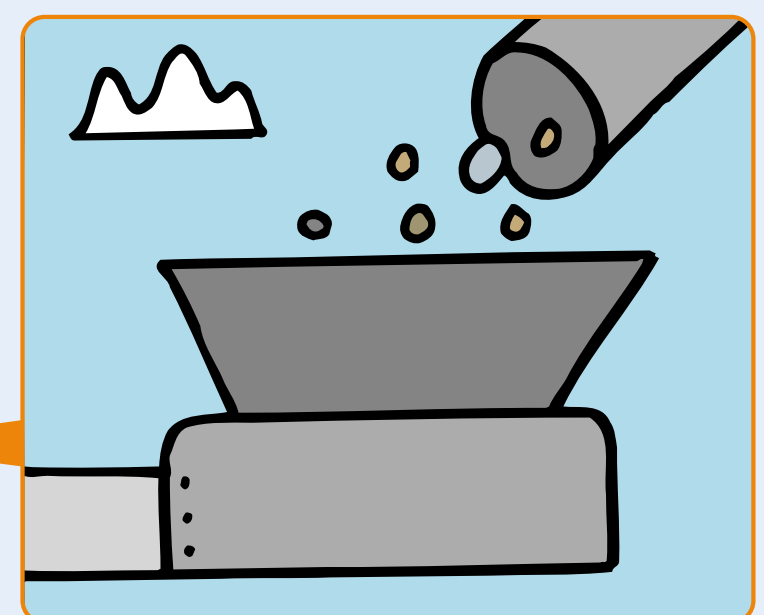
7 This block is then sanded and textured, before being cut into evenly-sized individual bricks



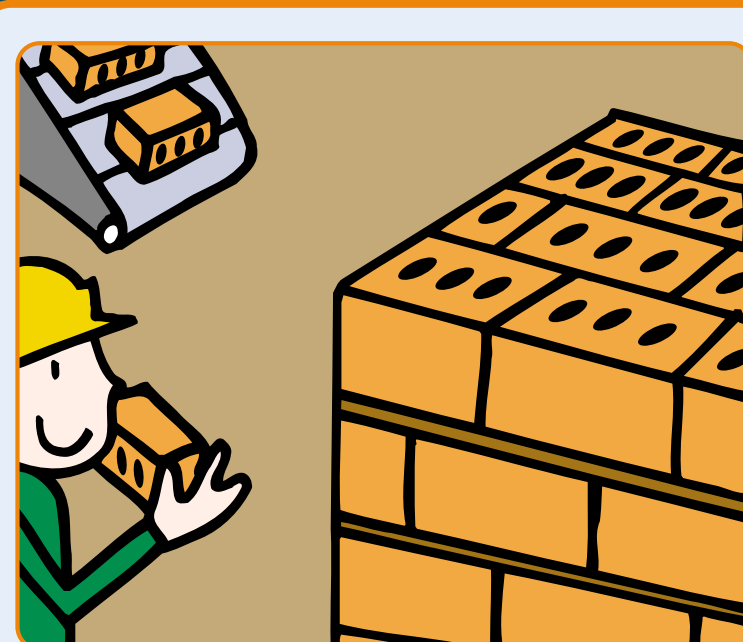
6 The brick mixture then goes through a machine called an extruder. It comes out in a long block shape



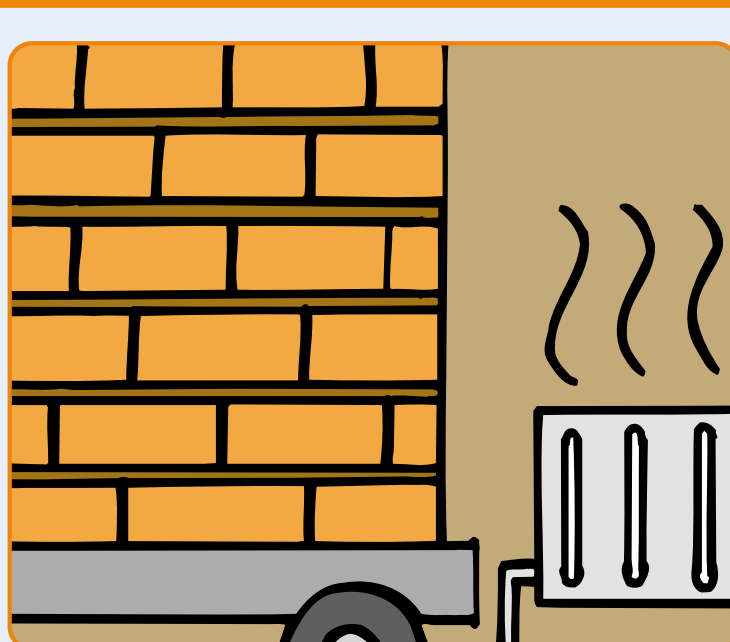
5 This mixture goes to the pugsealer where water is added to make it soft. At this stage it looks like modelling clay



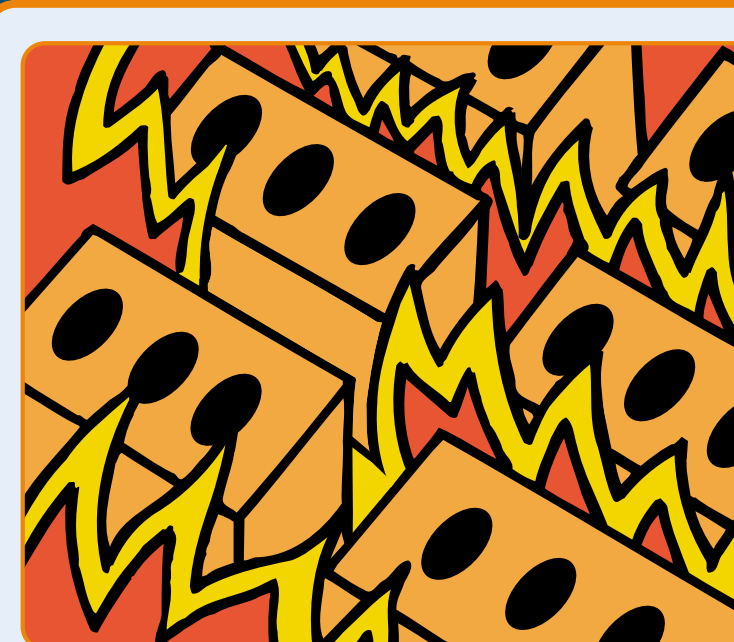
4 All the ingredients for the bricks go through a feeder and into the mixer. This combines them all evenly



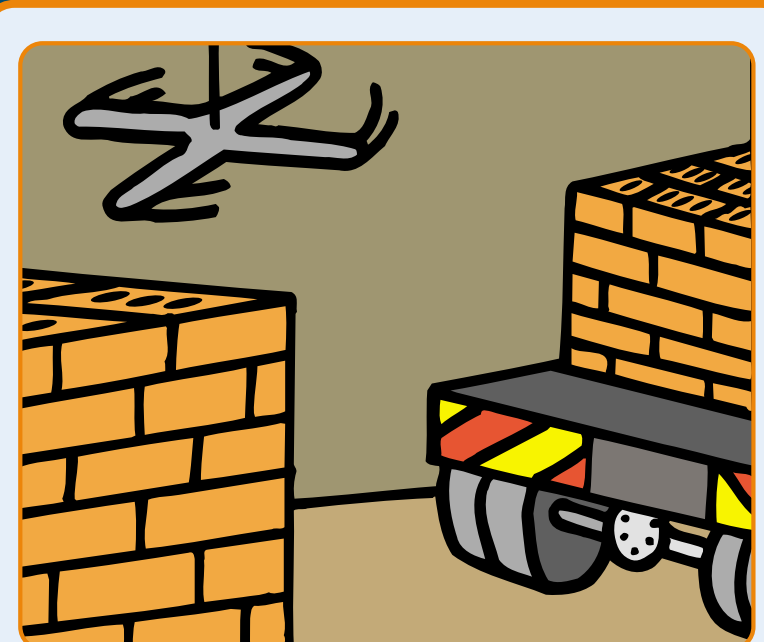
8 The bricks are stacked (sometimes by machine) to be set and dried. The way they are set out affects their strength



9 When set, the bricks are put on a trolley and wheeled through a warm drying chamber, until completely dried out



10 Now the bricks are ready for firing. They are placed in a very hot oven (called a kiln) for about five days



11 Afterwards, bricks are sometimes cooled by fans. Finally, they are packed up and loaded for delivery