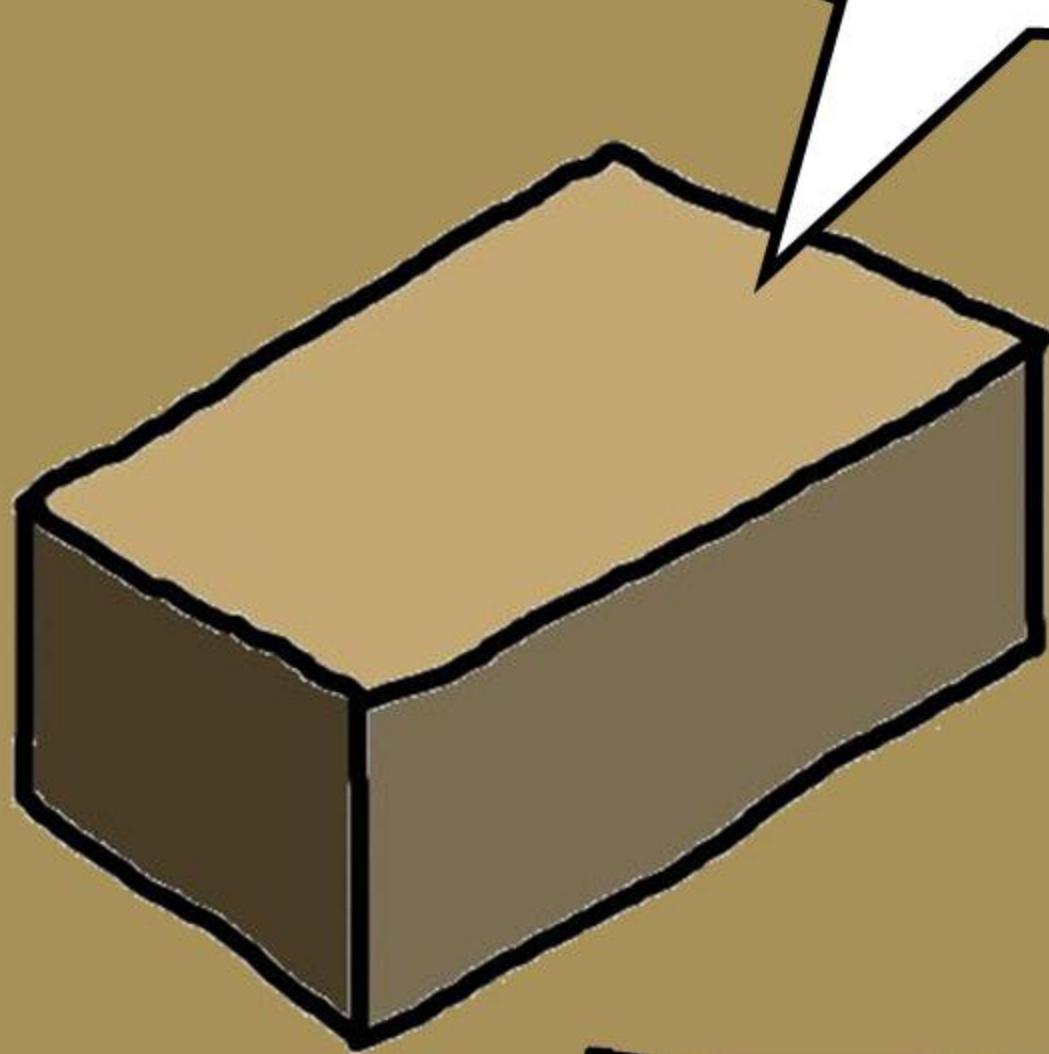


# The Magnificently Muddy

Uh-doe-bee  
!!



MicroManual

The Muddy Micromanuals are an invitation to the world of building with earth by four of the most ancient techniques known to (wo)man!

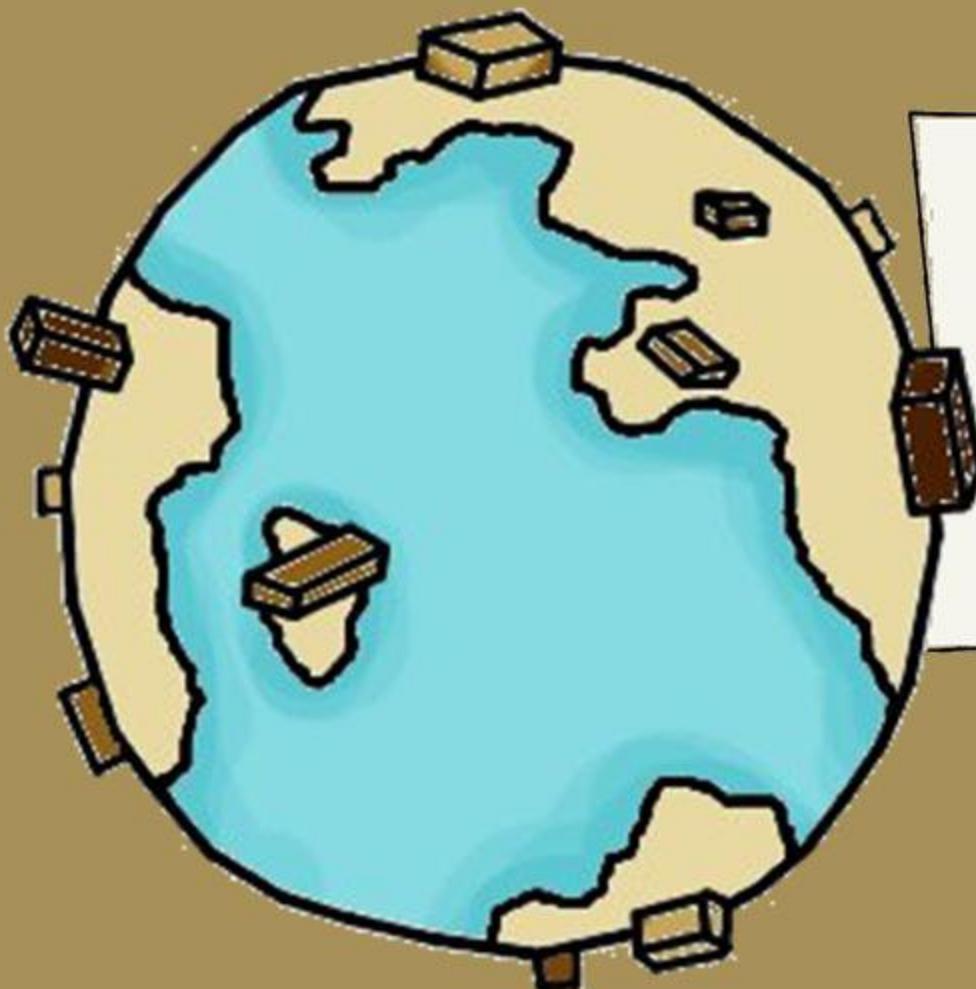


This is part 2/5 of the  
Muddy Micromanuals!

By Sourabh Phadke.  
An Aman Setu Publication.

Free for download.

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You can find adobes  
just about anywhere  
on the planet!



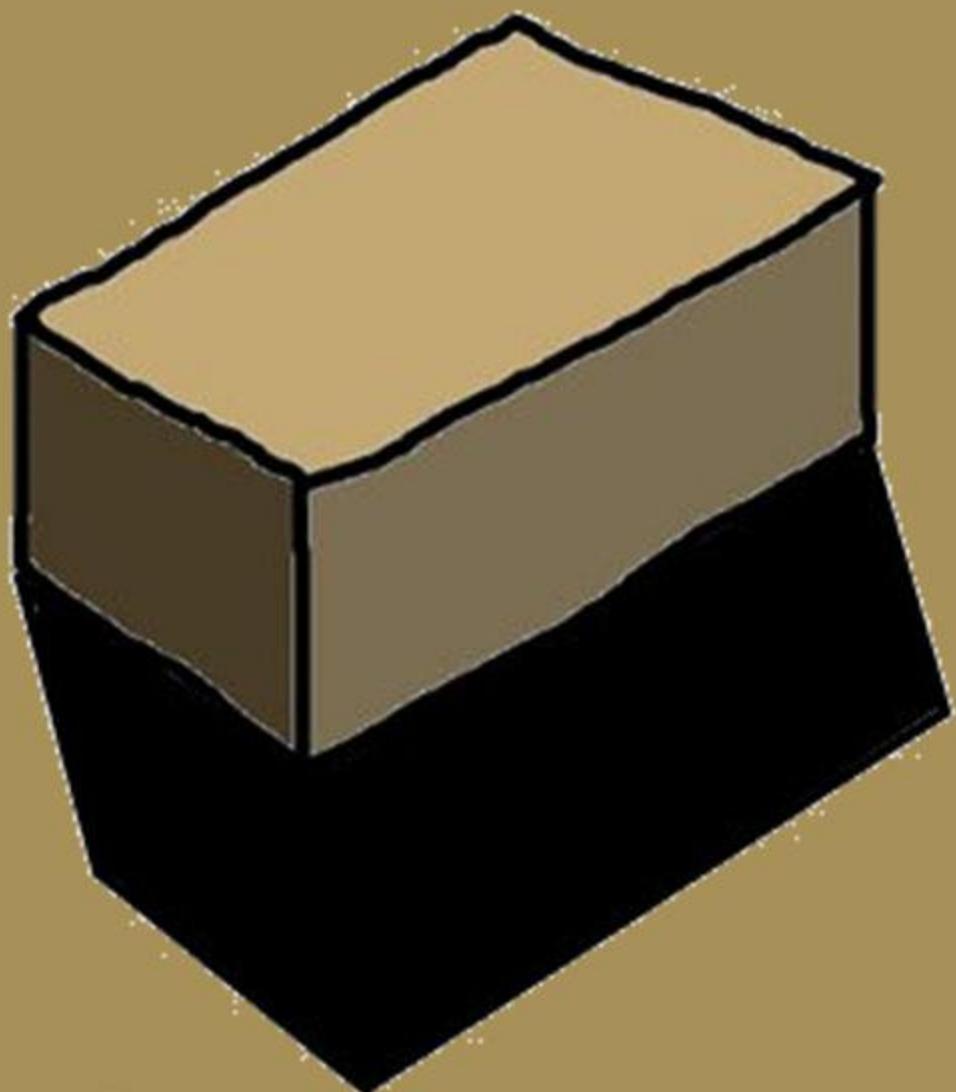
They are one of the most ancient  
building techniques. An integral part of  
the local culture!

Yes yes, but what is an adobe in  
the first place?

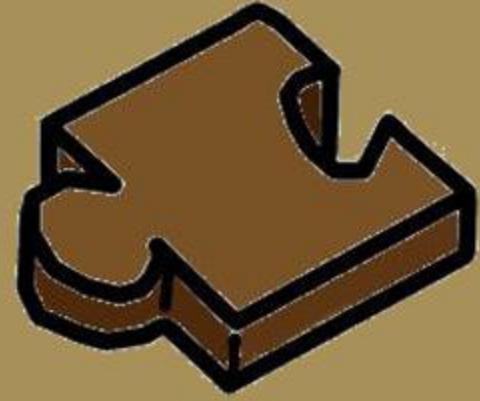
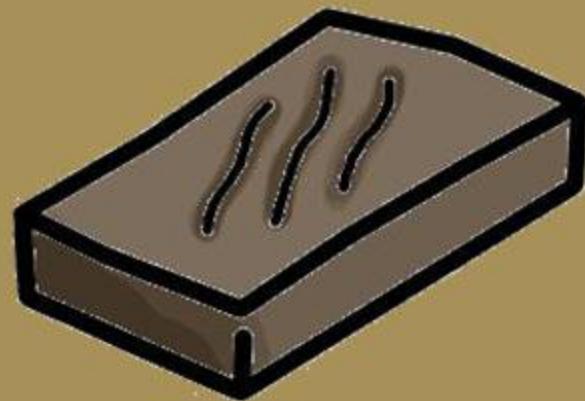
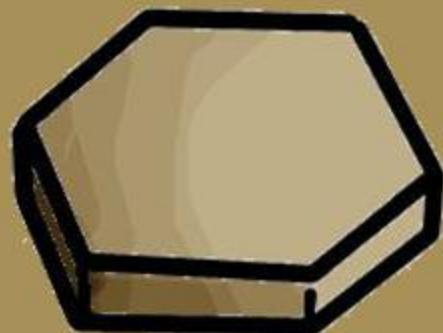
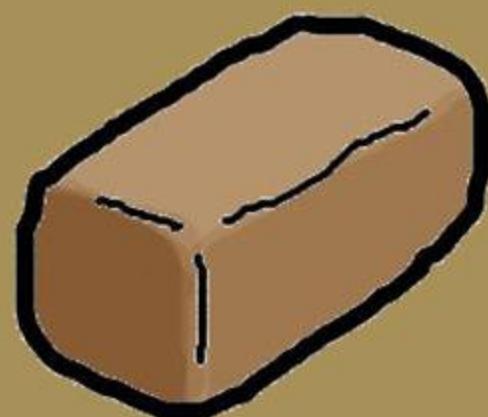
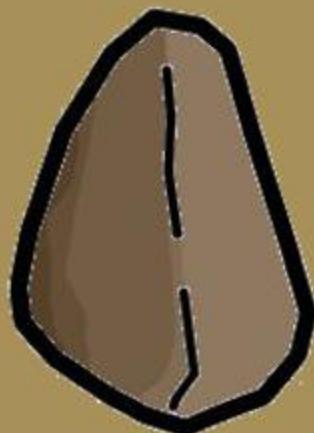
a dobbee is not a bodee  
a dobbee is not a bodee  
a dobbee is not a bo



Well,



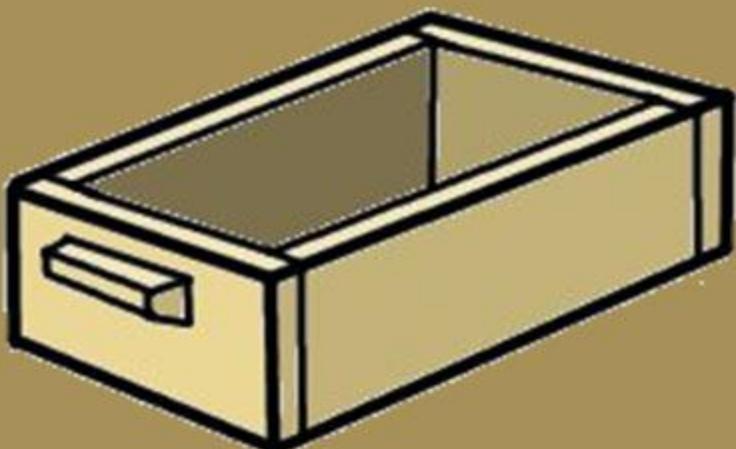
An  
adobe is  
a sun dried  
brick



Available in all shapes,  
sizes and flavours!

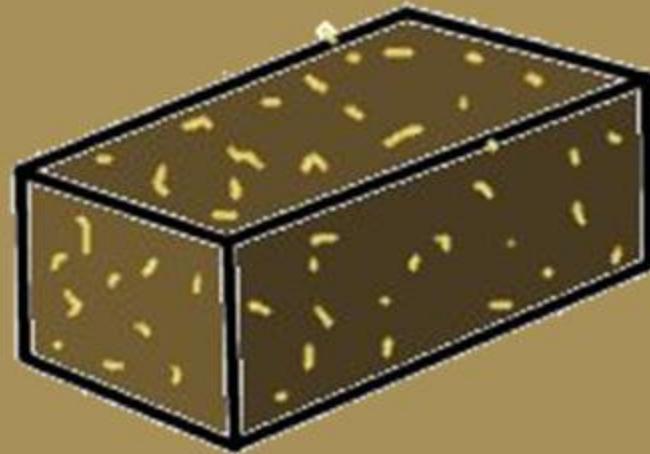
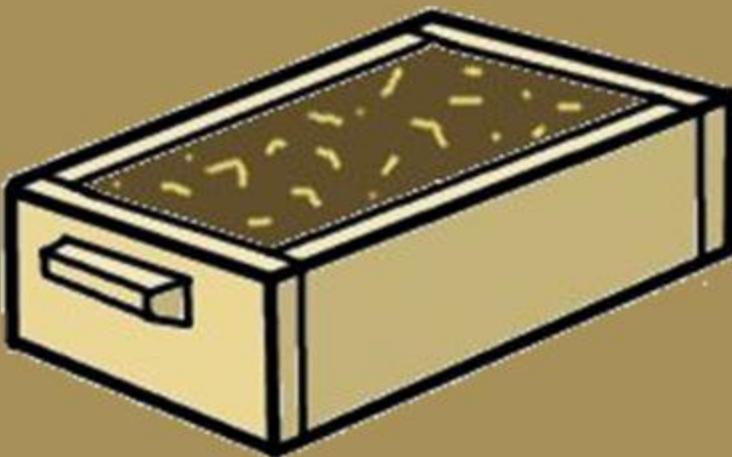
And it's really simple (and fun!)  
to make them...

Mix earth and water  
(add husk to taste)

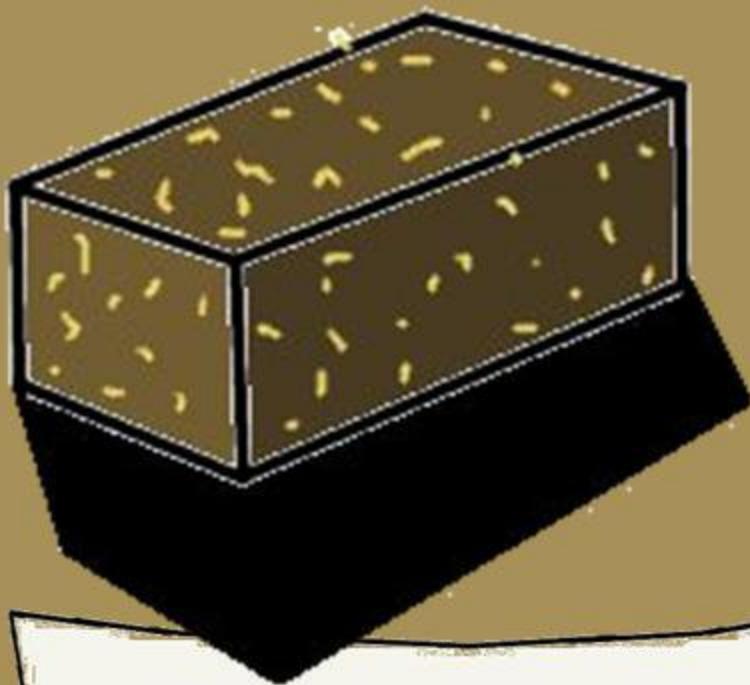


Nail some wooden  
pieces to make a mould

Throw the mix inside,  
press with your fingers  
and level the top

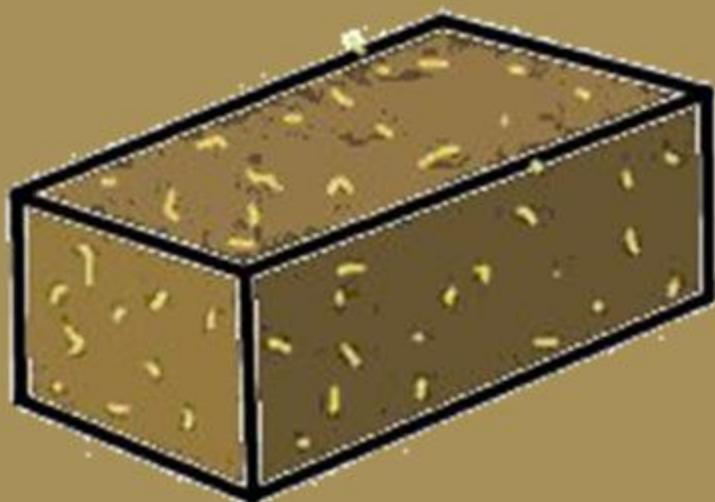
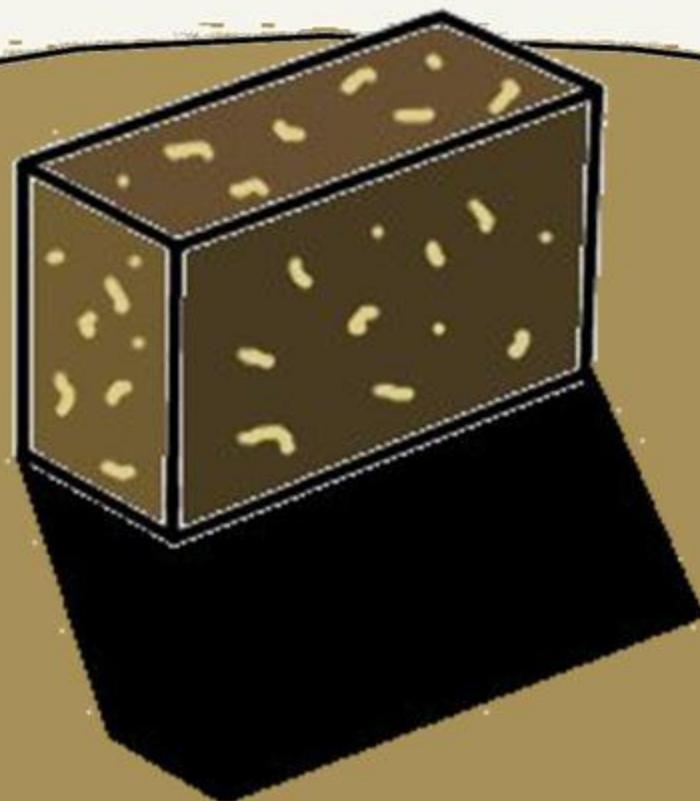


Lift the mould  
up, the adobe  
slides out!



Then soak up  
the sun

Turn to a side for  
even solar soakage



Ta-daa!!  
Ready to be used  
or stored

## \*And Remember:

Wet the mould before you chuck the mix in!  
The mix has to be just the right consistency.  
Too wet and it will slouch. Too dry and it will  
refuse to come out of the mould!

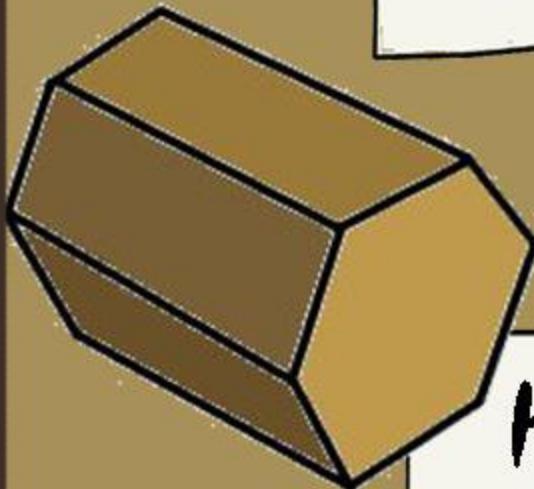
Here are a few species of adobes:



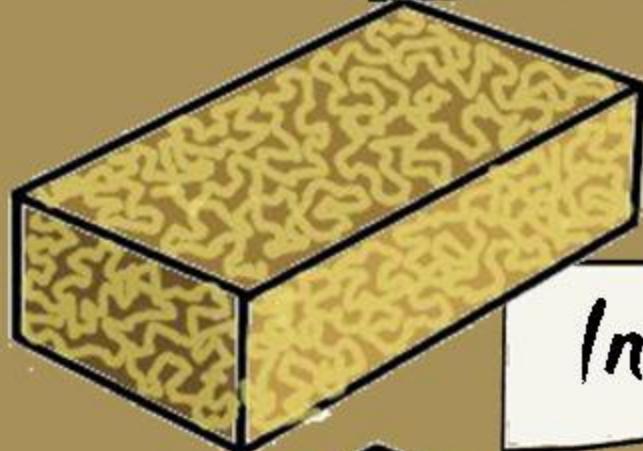
Décor-a-dobe



Chamferadobe



Hexadobe



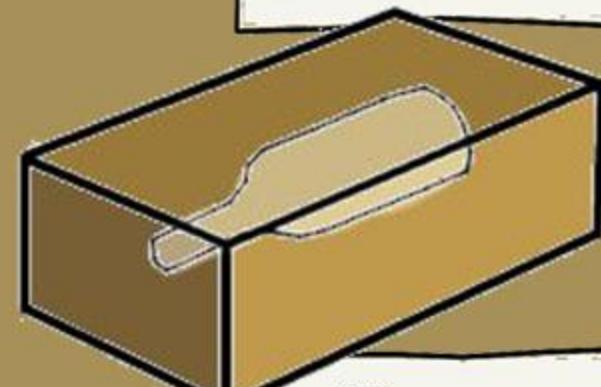
Insuladobe



Tile-face-dobe



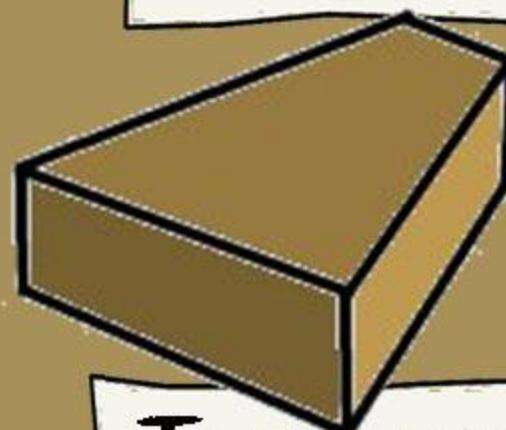
Jaggedobe



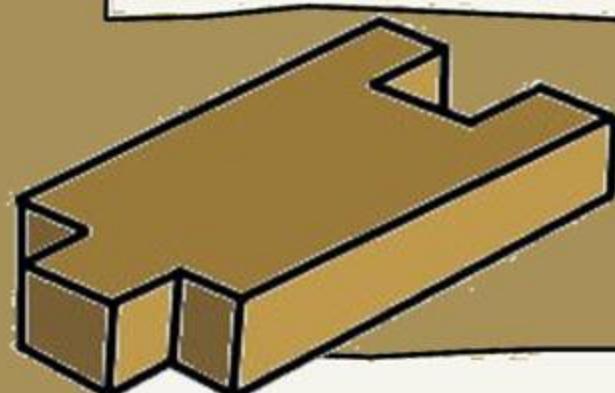
Junk-a-dobe



Beam-a-dobe

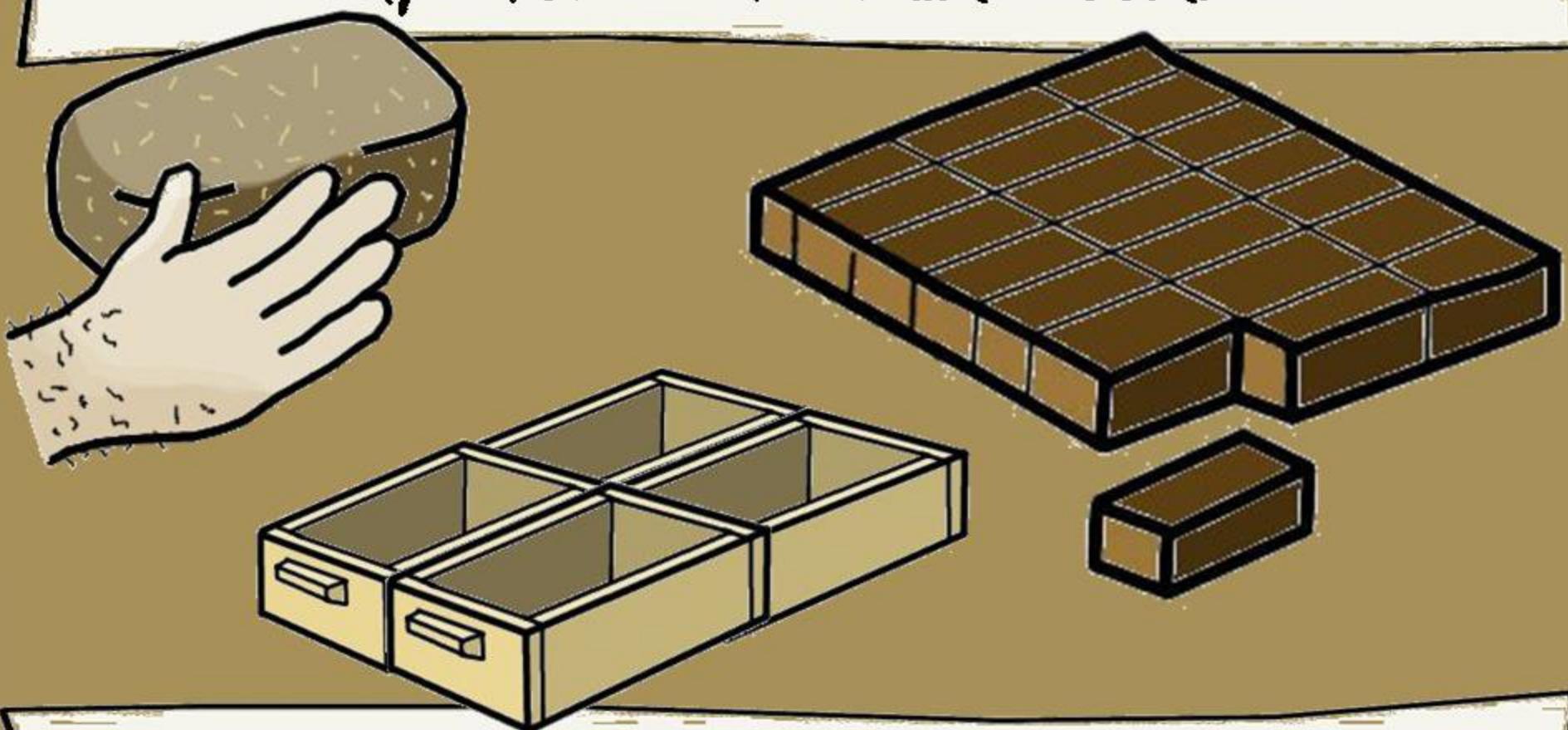


Trapezoidobe

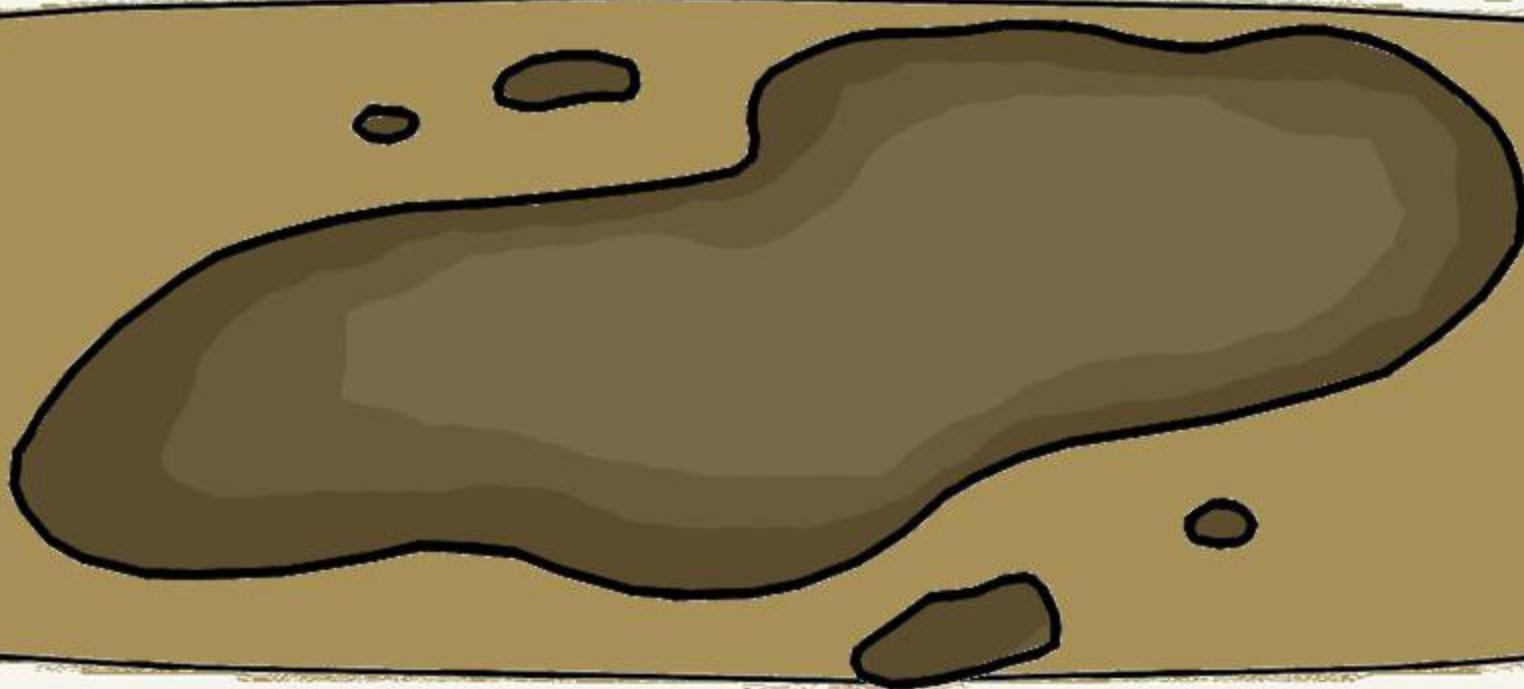


Interlock-a-dobe

Adobes can also be hand shaped, multi-mould shaped or even cut like cookies!



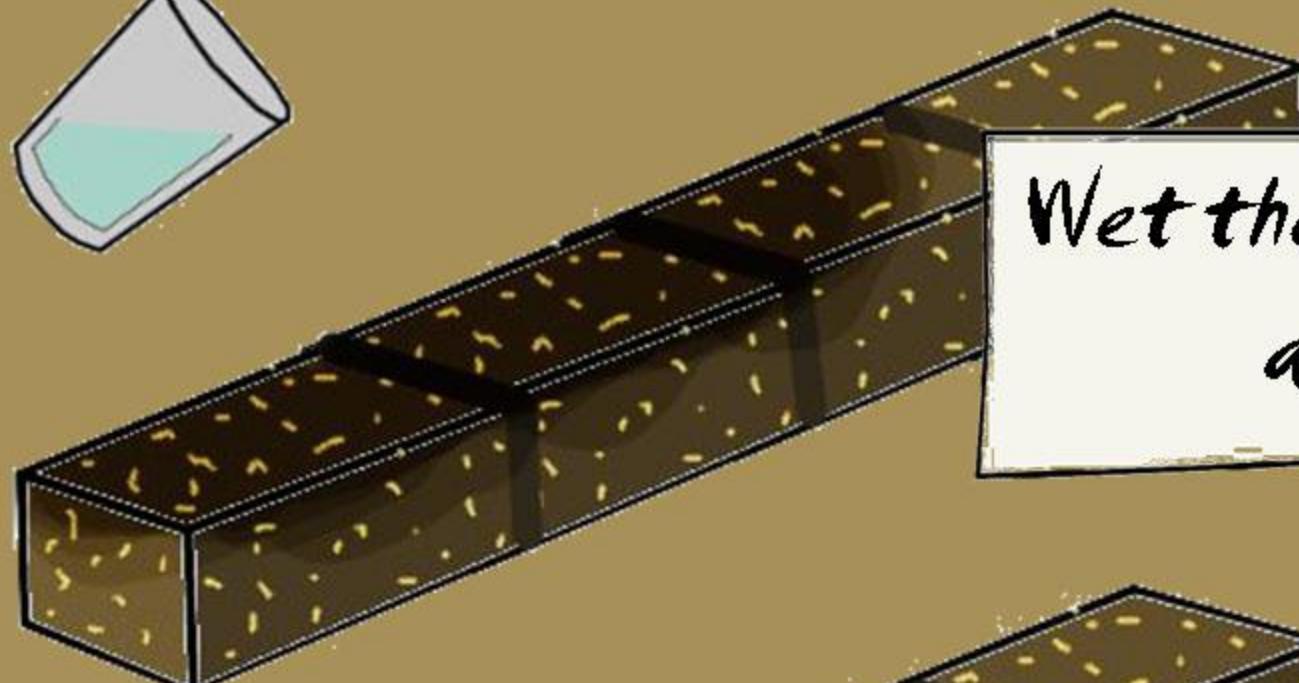
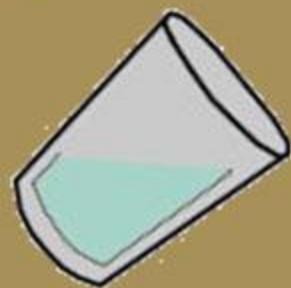
The 'glue' that we use to stick adobes together is the mud mortar.



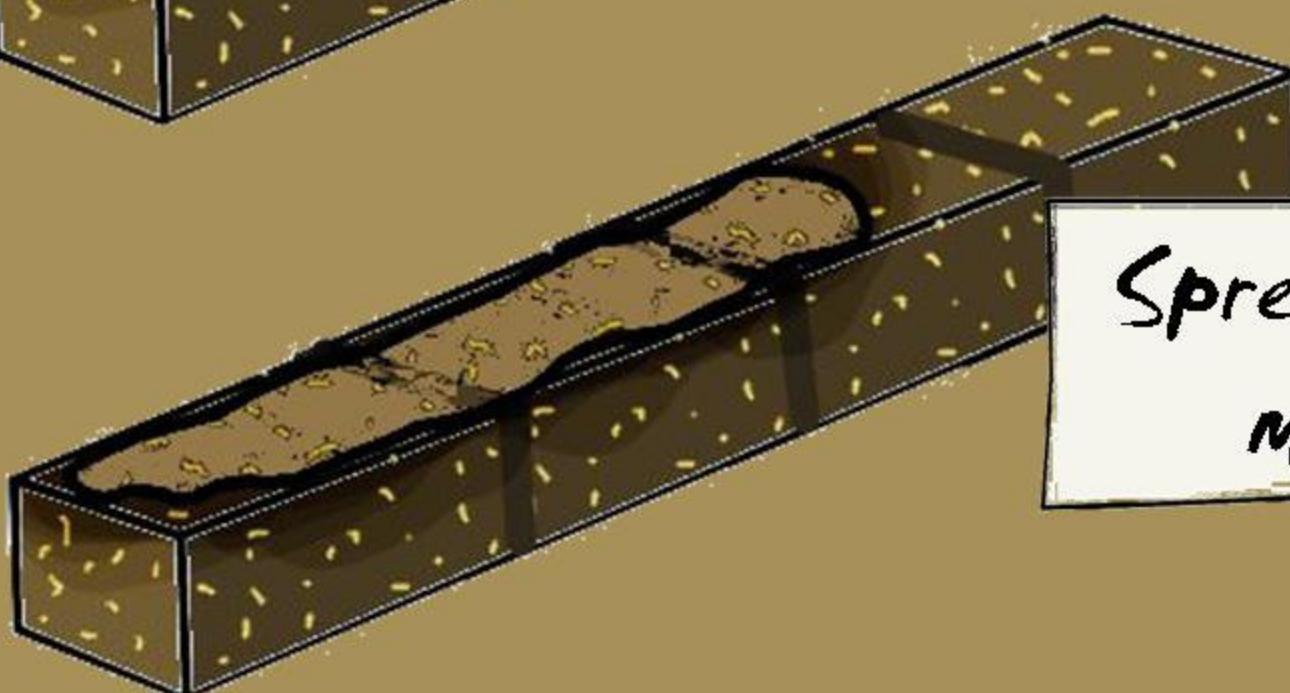
We use the same adobe earth for the mortar. Just add some extra water to the adobe mix!

The mortar is applied wherever two adobe faces meet:

between courses and between neighbours



Wet the top of the  
adobes



Spread the mud  
mortar..

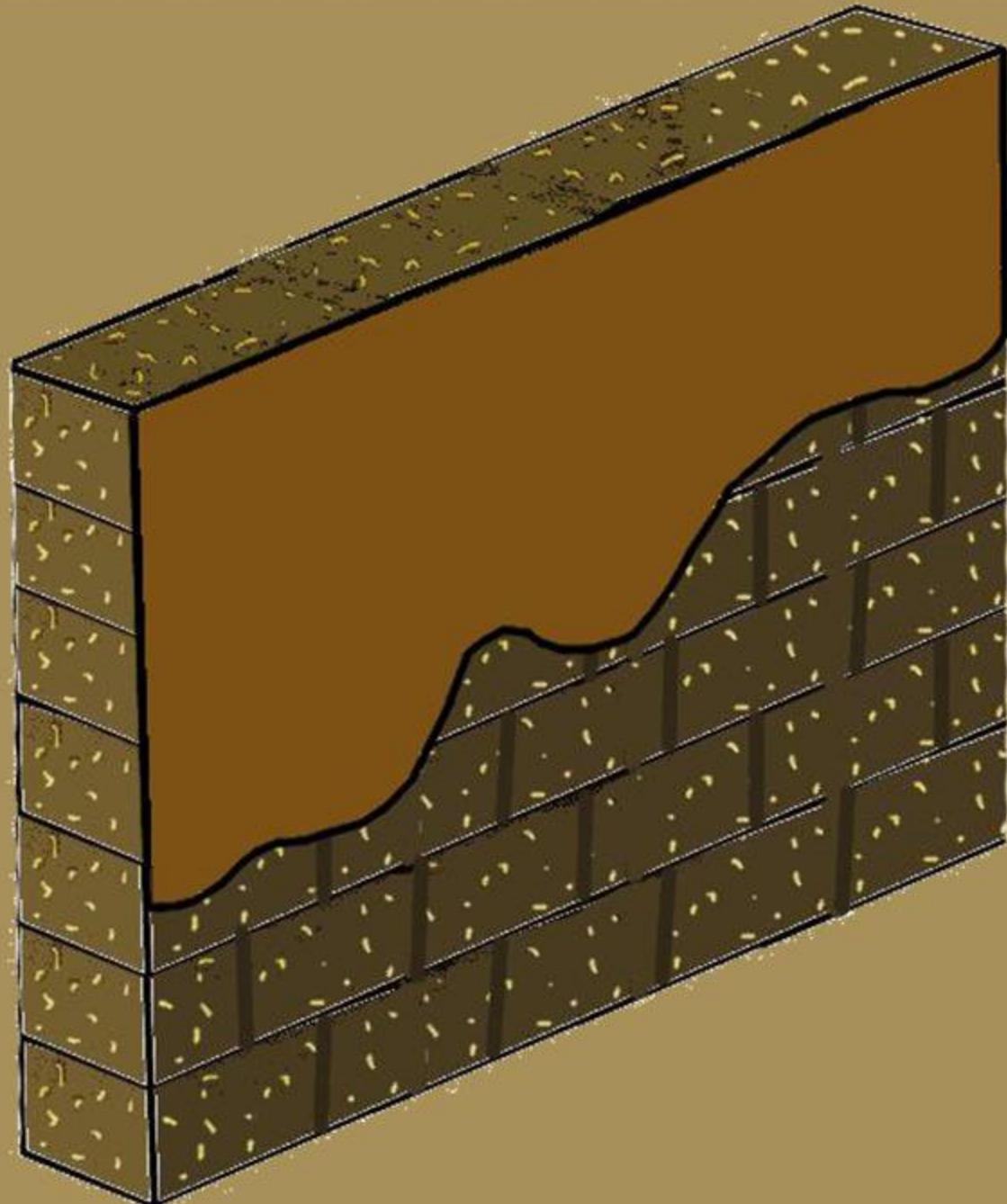


Place the adobe firmly  
over the joint beneath



\*Always look out for:

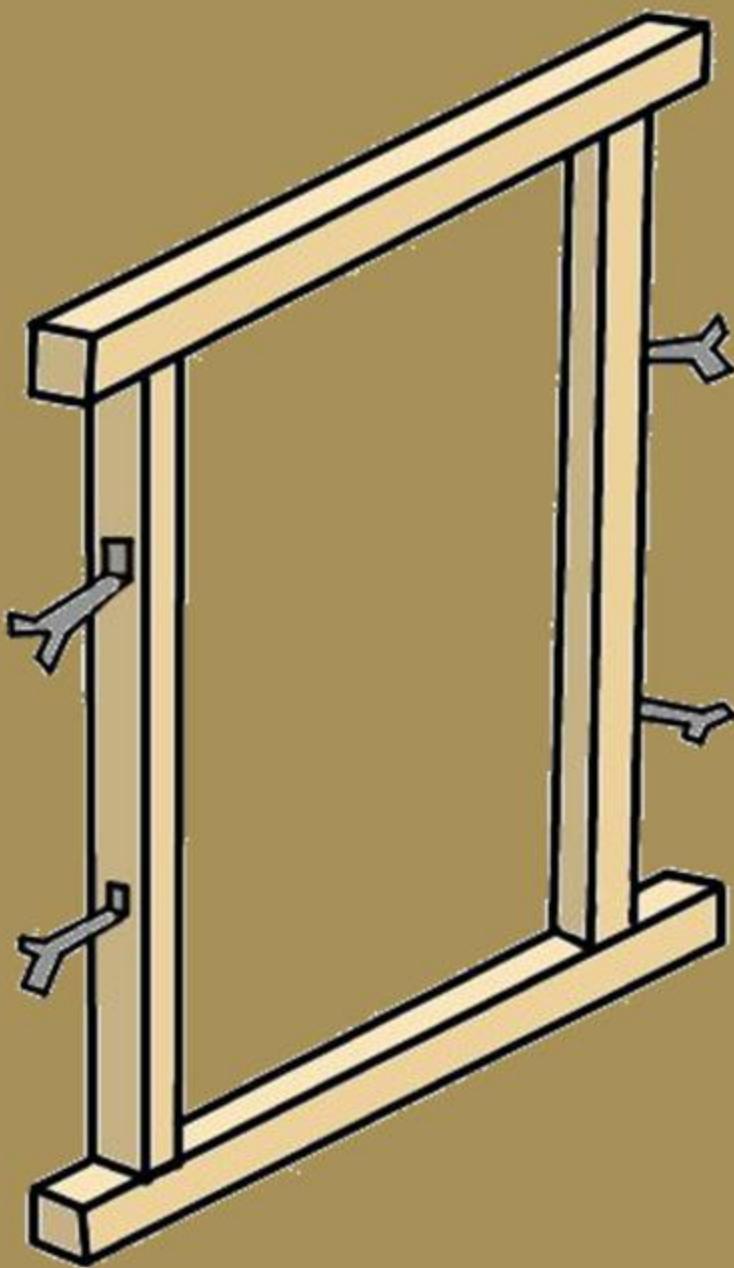
- 1) The corner angles
- 2) The level of the adobe course
- 3) The verticality of the wall
- 4) staggering of the joints



The wall can  
now be mud  
plastered and  
painted!

## Doors & Windows

Frames can be embedded directly into the adobe wall and anchored with holdfasts which are inserted between courses

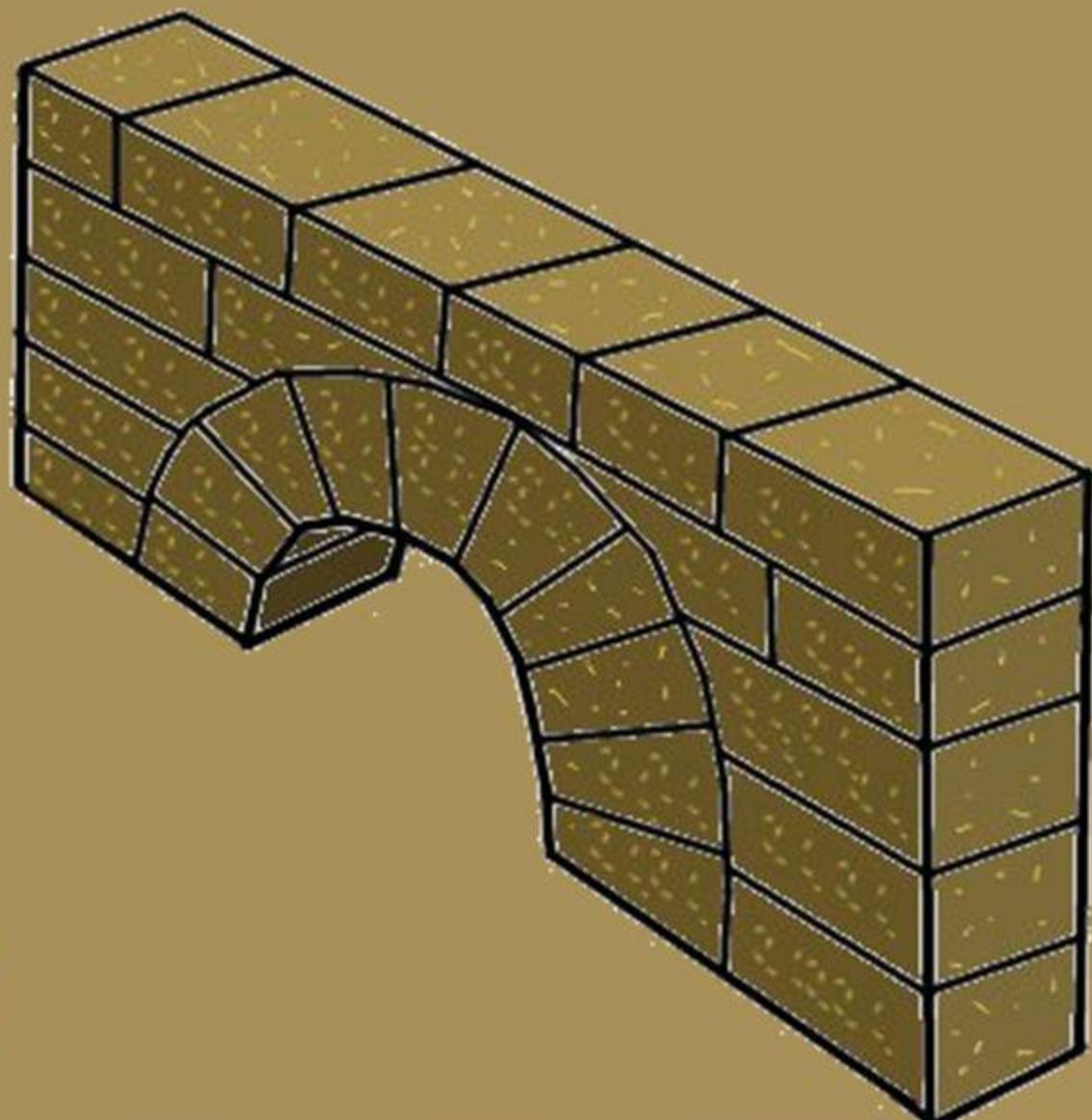


# Spanning..

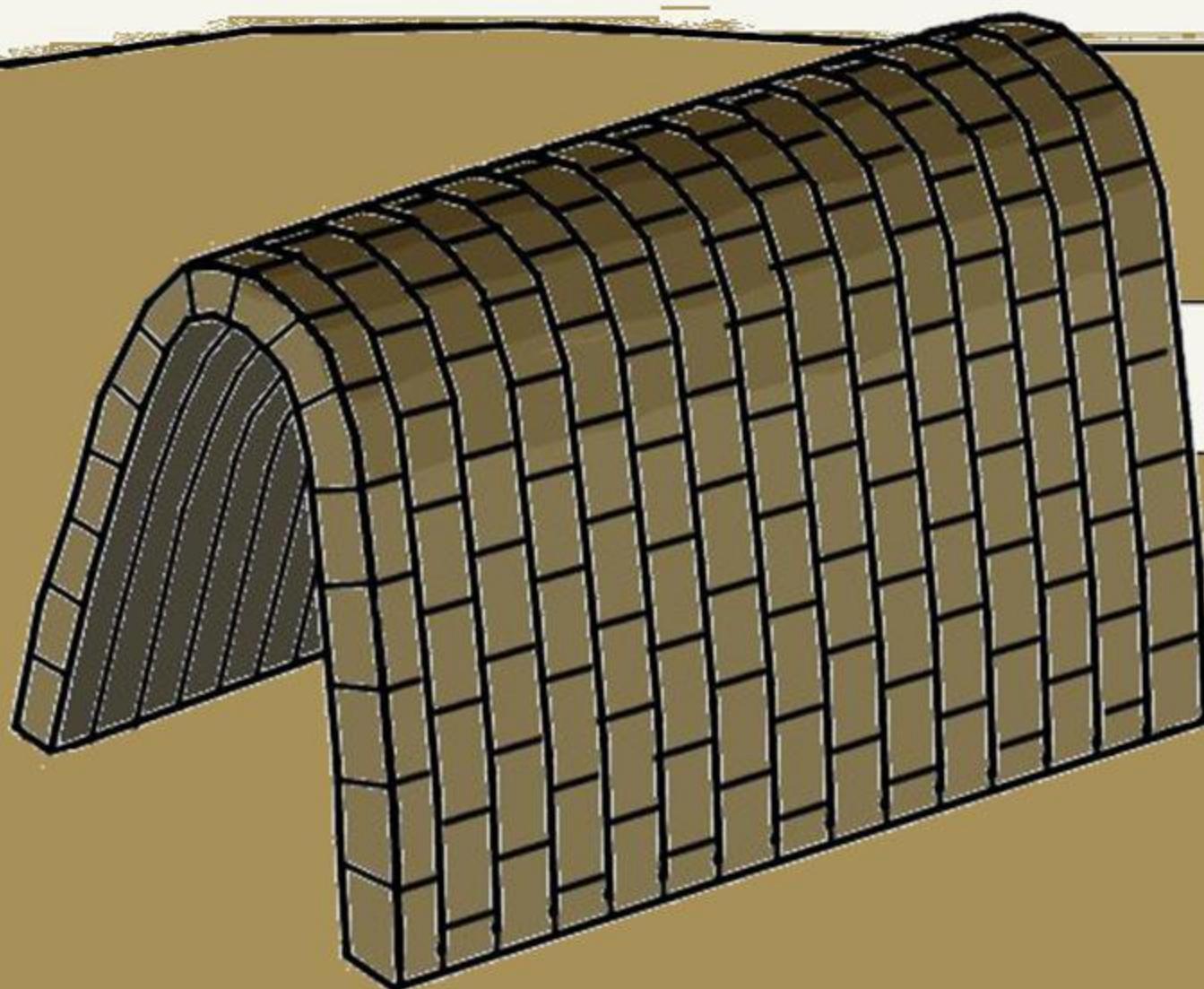


We can span the openings  
by corbelling the adobes.  
Each one steps out with  
every rising course...

With some  
formwork and  
support, we  
can also build  
arches of  
different  
kinds!

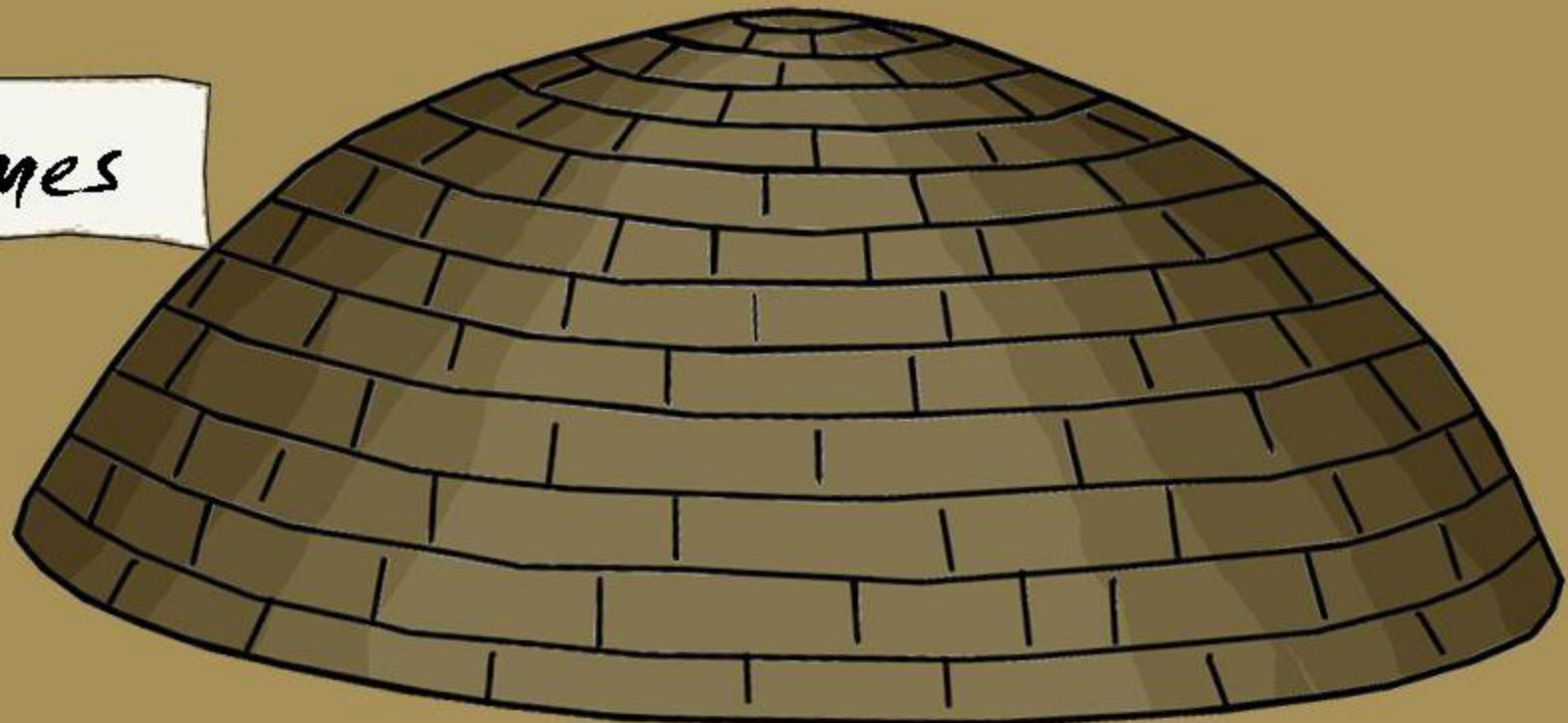


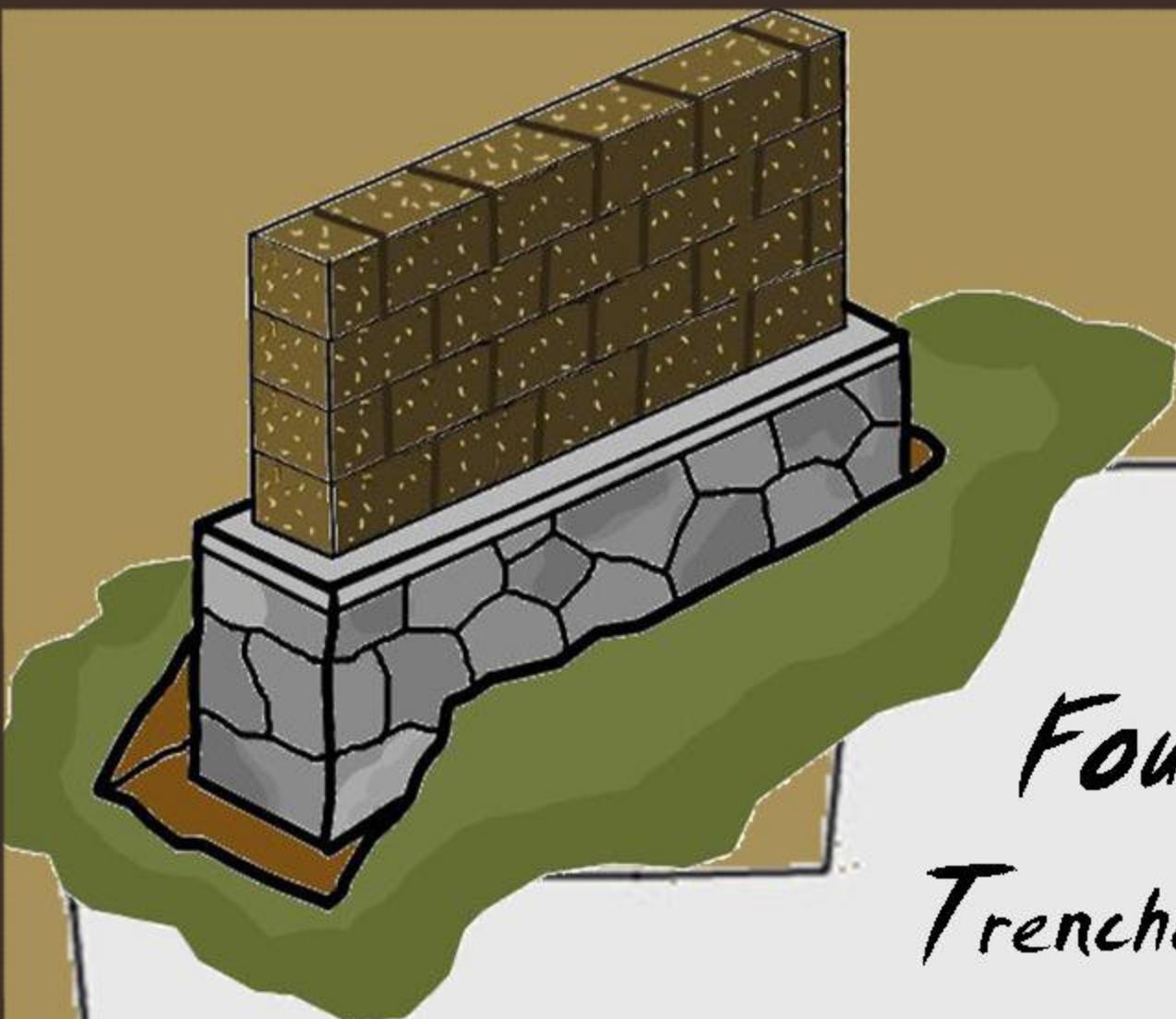
The arch evolves further...  
Adobes have been providing people with  
a roof overhead for centuries!



Vaults

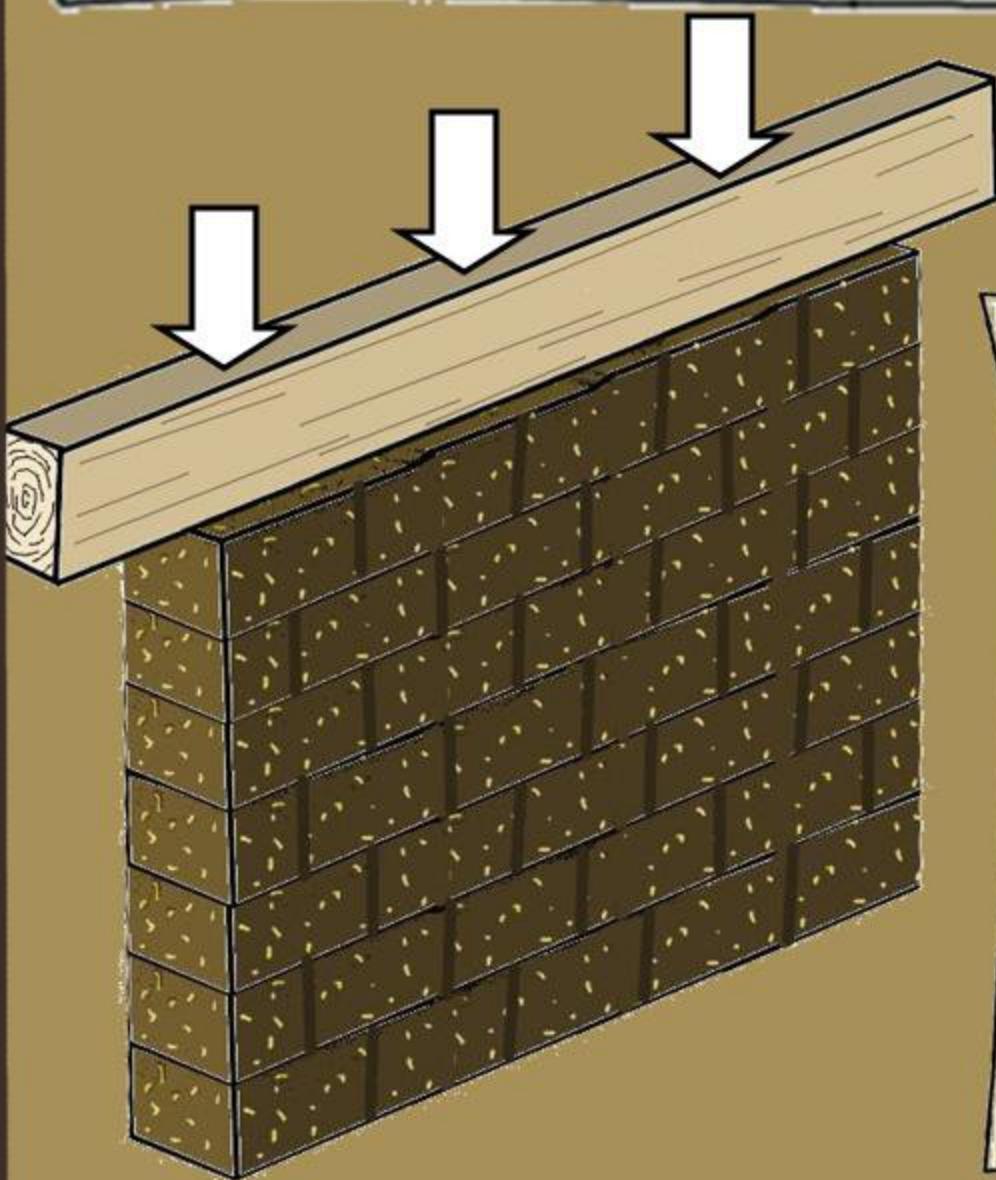
Domes





## The Foundation:

Trenches should be dug wherever the walls are to be built. Adobe walls should be raised off the ground with a plinth



## The Roof:

The Roof should sit on a beam which distributes the load over the entire wall

