The 10,000 year old bowl, likely a Mimbre bowl, was made from parts of Western Mexico. It reflects artistic culture and is made of clay, likely made by the Nahua tribe, or the Aztecs. The bowl itself is made of clay, which was gathered from riversides, and the paint on it, if there is any, is made from the same types of chemicals used in red dye, or carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, and many more. Pre-Hispanic vessels were shaped by modeling, coiling or molding. Except for a proto wheel used by the Zapotecs, the potter's wheel was unknown until the Spanish Conquest. Simple pinch pots or coiled pots were usually made by the family, with larger molded pieces made by craftsmen. The earliest molded pieces were simply clay pressed against a pre-existing bowl, but double molds and slip casting came to be used to make bowls with relief decorations. Famous examples of this type exist in Tlaxcala and Puebla states. Many figurines were also made using molds. Sometimes vessels were made with several molded pieces with the upper part finished by coiling. There are over thirty known methods to have been used to decorate pre-Hispanic pottery including pressing designs into the clay with textiles, use of rocker stamps, or pressing items such as shells and the use of pointed sticks. Various manners of putting and preserving colors both during and after firing were also employed. Designs generally fall into four categories: geometric, realistic or naturalistic (generally stylized animals and people), symbolic and pictographic. Most designs are related to designs on other crafts and on artistic works such as murals. All of these pottery styles and methods can still be found in modern Mexico. Decorative ceramics and figures are almost completely dominated by European traditions, especially in central Mexico. In some cases, there is a blending of traditions, mostly in decorative designs where indigenous elements are combined with European elements.

This type of pottery was created by first forming coils of clay. The coils were laid on top of each other in the desired pattern to form a bowl/cup/pot, then the edges were smoothed to create flat surfaces. Sand, shells, crushed rock, and even shards of previously-fired clay pots were used as temper to allow moisture to escape as clay was heated. Higher temperatures produce a more durable form of pottery. Clay that would crack at 300-400°F can, with temper in the mix, withstand heat as high as 1,200-1,500°F.

This bowl, as well as other native american pottery, are earthenware pots. Native Americans' open fires fueled by wood were not hot enough to produce watertight stoneware or porcelain, in which the clay molecules are tightly linked together. Early potters still managed to create earthenware pots that were watertight, capable of holding hot fluids such as soups and stews. Creating watertight pots was accomplished by taking the slowly-heated, fully-dry pots out of the fire by using sticks to hold the hot clay. Green pine needles were placed into the pot, then the pot was put back into the fire with the open end facing down into the coals. Wood was placed around and above the pot, which was gradually heated until the clay glowed red.