



# Artificial rocks

The main artificial rocks are bricks and concrete. They are easier to use for building than natural stone.

Building stone is expensive to quarry and difficult to cut into the right shapes. This is why, for thousands of years, people have made artificial rocks. We use them for building materials. The most common are **BRICKS** and **CONCRETE**.

## Bricks

Bricks begin as **CLAY**. Clay is a soft, sticky material when wet, but as it dries it begins to get very hard. The simplest bricks are wet clay shaped into a brick and allowed to dry in the sun.

These kinds of bricks are only suited to very dry places because rain will make them wet and they will fall apart. But if

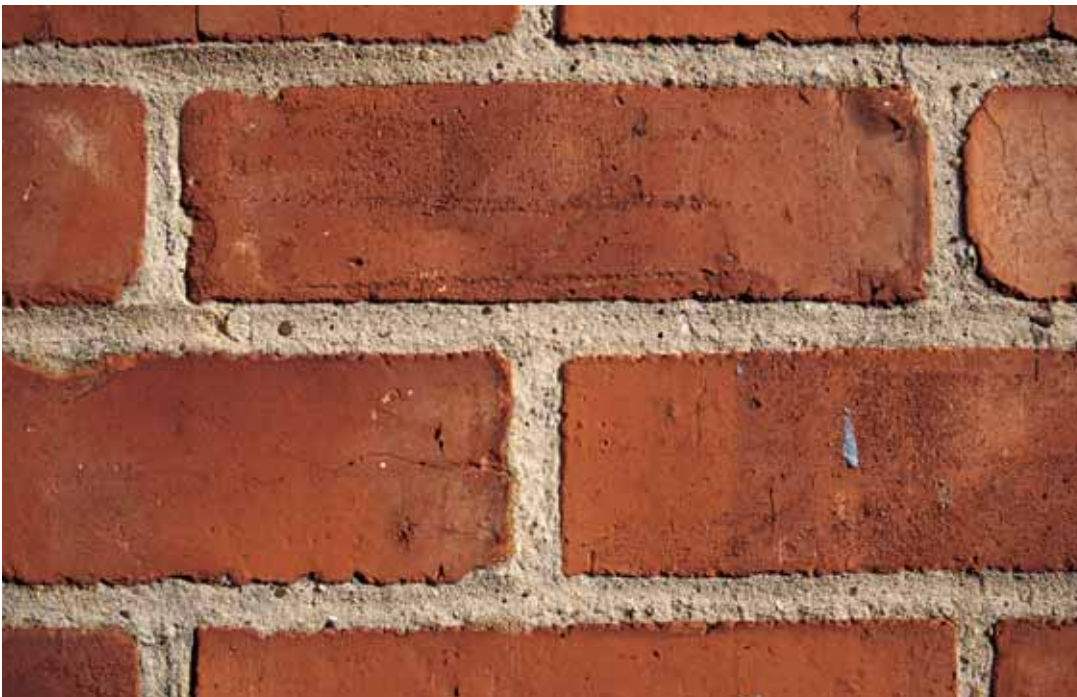
the clay is baked, then it will become hard, strong and waterproof. This makes true bricks.

Bricks are used mainly for walls (Picture 1). They are also sometimes used for pavements (Picture 2).

## Concrete

Concrete is a mixture of sand, cement and stones. The stones give the concrete its strength and the cement binds them together.

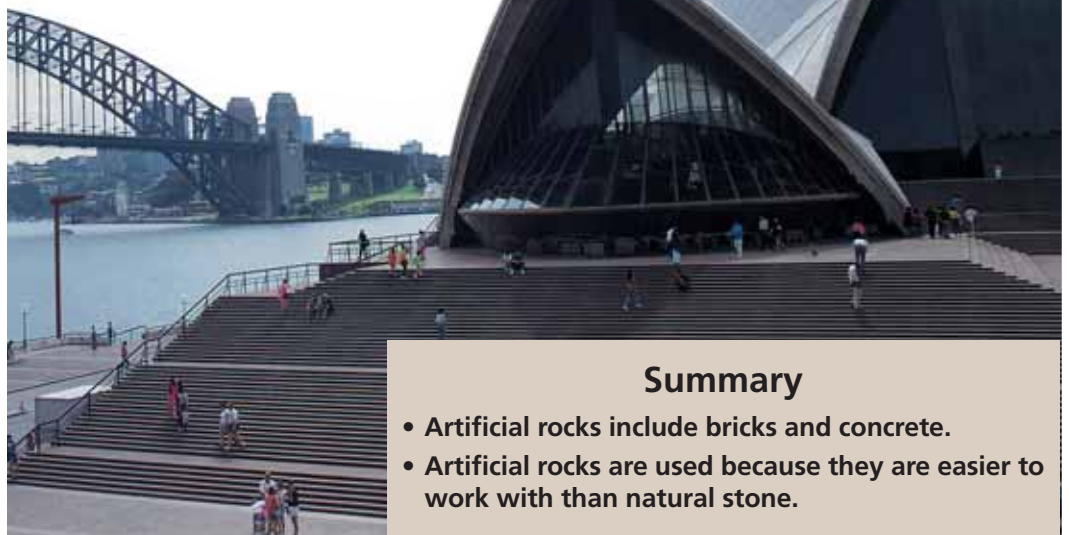
The advantage of concrete is that it can be poured into moulds and made to take on any shape (Pictures 2 and 3).



◀ (Picture 1) Bricks are cemented into place in an overlapping pattern to make the wall strong.



▲ (Picture 2) Bricks are used for low buildings and for paving the footpath here, but they cannot support the weight of a tall building. All of the tall buildings in the background are made of concrete built around a metal frame.



► (Picture 3) Concrete can be poured into shapes or used for paving slabs and curb stones. All these uses are seen in the Sydney Opera House shown here.

### Summary

- Artificial rocks include bricks and concrete.
- Artificial rocks are used because they are easier to work with than natural stone.