Family facts

-Bricks actually date back to the year 7,000 B.C which makes them the oldest known building material in the world. In fact, they were often made from mud and dried in the sun in order to make them hard enough for the bricklaying process. As one of the most advanced civilizations of their time, the Ancient Egyptians would make their bricks from clay that had been combined with straw and evidence of this can be seen at the ruins of Harappa Buhen, an ancient society. In 3,500 B.C, the discovery of fired brick meant that bricks no longer relied on the sun in order to be crafted and this allowed those in cooler climates to start bricklaying too. Interestingly, the Romans would make their bricks in the springtime and store them for two years before they were used. Plus, the size of the bricks could differ considerably because they used their own measuring system: Roman feet.

-Bricklaying has a very rich history because there are a wide range of different building styles that can be denoted by the colour of the bricks or the way that they are laid. For example, 12th century Gothic style buildings are almost solely made from red clay bricks but tend to lack the sophistication of those that were made from stone. This was replaced by renaissance architecture in the 16th century. When the Industrial Revolution came about, bricks no longer had to be made by hand because we were able to mechanise the process. As a result, companies were able to create around 12,000 bricks a day by 1925 which made construction cheaper and faster to carry out.