

Glassblowing

Syrian glassworkers invented the art of glassblowing more than 2,000 years ago. This method of shaping glass has changed very little since that time. The glassblower uses a hollow metal pipe that is about five feet long. On one end of the pipe is a mouthpiece. On the other end is a gob of hot melted glass. The worker blows air into the pipe, which causes the glass to expand into a hollow bubble. The worker then shapes the glass bubble into a container of some kind.

Sometimes the glassblower shapes the glass using a mold, as the ancient Syrians often did. But the basic process is the same. After blowing the glass into a bubble, the worker guides the bubble into a mold. Then, the worker blows through the pipe again until the glass bubble takes on the shape of the mold.

Today, glassblowing is often done by machines instead of people. But the basic process has stayed the same. All glassblowing requires melted glass and blowing air.

Strategy Here is a good place to predict. What do you think you will find out about next?

Skill The word *all* is a clue to a generalization. What generalization can you make about glassblowing?