
Samsung

Digital Discovery Centre

Key Stage 2

A gift for Athena

The final page of these notes can be copied and given to students who you think may need additional support during the session, or to adult helpers.

This is a school teacher led session using tablets and not a taught workshop.

You do not need any technical knowledge for your class to successfully complete the session.

About this session

The session uses a specially designed app on Samsung tablets. The app introduces the students to the celebration of the annual Panathenaia festival held every year in ancient Athens in honour of the birth of Athena. The students explore the sculptures and architecture of the Parthenon, discovering where the sculptures were situated on the temple and what they tell us about life in ancient Greece and the Greek gods.

Practical instructions

Fifteen tablets and a troubleshooting guide can be borrowed from the the Schools and Families Lunch Room. You can book to borrow the tablets and guide for either the 10.30–12.00 or 12.30–14.00 slots. The session can normally be completed in 1 hour.

The session takes place in the Parthenon sculptures gallery (Room 18). Students work in pairs across the gallery following the challenges set for them in the app.

Key themes

Architecture, sculpture, ancient Greek temples and religious festivals, ancient Greek cities and civic life, gods and goddesses, how buildings communicate ideas

Key vocabulary

Athens, the Parthenon, temple, architecture, column, sculpture, pediment, frieze, metope, celebration, sacrifice

Preparing for your session

- Discuss the key words in the Summary sheet below before the session.
- A British Museum website on Ancient Greece has a wealth of activities for students and ideas for teachers: www.ancientgreece.co.uk. The sections on the Acropolis and temple-design activity are particularly relevant for this session: www.ancientgreece.co.uk/acropolis and www.ancientgreece.co.uk/acropolis/challenge.

Following up your session

- Ask students to find out about other temples in Greece and the wider Greek world such as Sicily, Southern Italy and Turkey: how similar are they, how were they decorated?
- Students could explore the website of the Acropolis Museum in Athens to see parts of the frieze there.
- Ask the students to write a first-person account imagining they are watching the Panathenaic procession and taking part in the religious ceremonies which follow it.

Galleries with related objects

Room 17:	The Nereid tomb.
Room 18b:	Plaster casts of the frieze fragments of the Parthenon and a model of the Parthenon which can be touched.
Room 19:	A column and caryatid from the Erechtheion and part of the frieze from the temple of Athena Nike .
Room 69:	Life in Ancient Greece – an Athenian festival (Case 24), the Gods of Olympus (Case 32).

Curriculum links

KS2 History: ancient Greece
Art and Design topics at KS2 on communication through architecture

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Life in prehistoric Britain

Summary sheet

In this session you will learn:

- the Parthenon, a temple built for the goddess Athena in Athens
- how buildings can tell us about the ideas and beliefs of the people who built them

Key words

- Athens
- the Parthenon
- temple
- architecture
- column
- sculpture
- pediment
- frieze
- metope
- celebration
- sacrifice

Exploring the Parthenon

- You will be given a tablet to share with a partner.
- You and your partner will use a special app to explore different types of sculpture on the Parthenon.
- You will learn about how the pediments show important moments in the life of the goddess Athena.
- You will learn that the frieze shows a celebration which happened every year to celebrate Athena's birthday.

Looking at the frieze

- Make sure you look at all the sculptures closely to find answers and to understand what is going on.
- Use your imagination to think what it might have been like to be at the celebration and how you would have felt about Athena and Athens.

For more information, visit britishmuseum.org/samsungcentre
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