

Key Stage 2: How to find out about Greek life

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.

About this session

This session takes place in the Sackler Rooms of the Clore Education Centre. This session uses image investigation, handling, question and answer, and tableau creation to encourage your students to think about how we can find out about Greek life.

It focuses on research and evidence skills in the context of ancient Greece. During the session students work with a range of pictures, objects and texts and learn how to draw upon these, and the links between them, to uncover evidence of activities in the past.

The Museum would very much appreciate it if students attending could wash and dry their hands before the session to help conserve the handling objects. We also recommend that students wash their hands after the session, particularly if they go straight into their lunch break.

Session outline

- The session begins with the class as one group investigating an image from an ancient Greek pot. They will think about who they can see, what they are doing and any objects in the image.
- It then goes on to allow the students, in smaller groups, to explore replica handling objects, images and texts to determine what every day activity they are showing.
- It concludes by the groups creating tableaux of one of their images. Dependent on remaining time so of the groups will demonstrate these to the rest of the class.

- **Key themes** of the session are daily life in ancient Greece, exploration of images and using evidence to draw conclusions.
- **Key vocabulary** includes ancient Greece, daily life, pottery, evidence, tableau, narrator

Preparing for your session

- Locate ancient Greece and Athens on both ancient and modern maps.

- Discuss the types of activities that they do every day. Ask them what activities they think that ancient Greek people might have done daily. Are any of them the same?

Following up your session

- Recreate the tableaux each group designed during the session. The images used are available to download in a PowerPoint presentation from the 'How to find out about Greek life' session page on the British Museum website.
- Explore more activities that the people of ancient Greece did. Create a wall display that compares and contrasts daily life in ancient Greece and in a modern country of your choice.
- Remind the pupils of the everyday activities they encountered during the session and set up research on them: athletics, weaving, writing, games and music. Ask them to imagine they are an ancient Greek and write a diary of their day including descriptions about the activities they performed.

Galleries with related objects

Room 13: Greece 1050-520

Room 14: Greek vases

Room 15: Athens and Lycia

Room 19: Greece: Athens

Room 69: Greek and Roman life

Curriculum links

KS2 History – ancient Greece

History: sources of evidence, communicating findings

Citizenship: looking after the past

Personal, social and health education: thinking about the lives of people living in different places and times

Art and design: pictorial representation, art of past cultures

Archaeology: material culture as a source of evidence

Literacy: instructions, translated texts

KS2: How to find out about Greek life

Summary sheet

In this session you will learn about:

- how to explore an image
- some of the activities ancient Greek people did as part of their daily life

Key words

daily life

pottery

evidence

tableau

narrator

What is going on in this picture?

- First, we will look at a picture and talk about what is going on in the picture. Think about who is in the picture, what they are doing and what objects you can see.

Explore a picture

- Then you will split into groups and go to the tables. On the tables will be objects and text. Your group will look at these and talk about what every day ancient Greek activity you think they belong to.
- You will then be given pictures of pots. They will help you to decide what activity your group are thinking about.

Create a tableau

- Next your group will use the evidence from the pictures, objects and text to create a tableau. This is a frozen picture.
- One of your group will be the narrator when you present your tableau to the rest of the class.

Presenting the tableau

At the end of the session some of the groups might present their tableau to the rest of the class so that we can see lots of different activities that ancient Greeks did during their daily life.