

Notes for teachers

National curriculum links

- History: ancient Greece
- English: traditional stories, storyboarding and sequencing

About this session

Students will learn to recognise characters in pictures of Greek stories and consider how the ancient Greeks showed their myths in pictures.

Location lecture theatre

Format students view images projected on a screen and participate through a Q&A

Capacity up to 120 students, usually from different schools

Duration 45 minutes

Price £1 per student

In detail

- After a short discussion about what a myth is, students are introduced to the idea of visual clues that will help them recognise characters on Greek vases including Herakles, Athena, Hermes and Medusa.
- The students explore how visual elements of a story were combined to tell a particular myth, for example Perseus and Medusa.
- The students are told the story of Odysseus and the Cyclops and discover how Greek artists used a single image to tell a story.

Before your visit

- Look at some pictures of famous stories and characters in books or comics and explore how your students recognise them.

After your visit

- Remind your students how to recognise characters using visual clues. See if it works with other types of art, for example pictures of Bible stories and Christian saints, Hindu gods and mythology, Egyptian gods, comic book superheroes etc.

Find out more

- More ancient Greece [resources and sessions](#)
- Related galleries: 13, 14, 15, 69
- Take a look at the galleries with [Google Street View](#)
- Search the [collection online](#)

Visit notes for students and adult helpers

You can print this summary sheet and take it with you during your visit.

Learning objectives

- To recognise characters in pictures of Greek stories
- To understand how the ancient Greeks showed their myths in pictures

Key words

Myths – a made up story

Visual – seeing

Recognise – know what something is

Athena – a Greek goddess

gorgon – a Greek monster

Cyclops – a Greek giant

Perseus – a Greek hero

Herakles – a Greek hero

Hermes – a Greek god

Odysseus – a Greek hero

What is a Greek myth?

- A myth is an old story handed down through time.
- Myths often explain things – they were usually important to the people who created them.
- The Greeks decorated pottery and buildings with pictures from myths.

Recognising characters

- You will learn how to recognise three characters by using visual clues such as what they carry or wear: Herakles, Athena, Hermes.

Recognising stories

- You will learn how to recognise stories in pictures.
- You add together the characters you recognise and look at what they are doing.
- You will see how this works with a picture of Perseus and the gorgon.

Telling stories with pictures

- The ancient Greeks did not use cartoon strips to tell stories.
- They liked to put things into a picture that belong in different parts of the story. The things remind you of what has happened before and after.
- You will see how this works with a picture of Odysseus and the Cyclops.