Notes for teachers

National curriculum links
- History
- Classical Civilisations
- Cross curricular

About this session

This gallery-based talk is designed to support students using objects as evidence. Led by a member of the learning team, students develop critical thinking and enquiry skills through exploring and discussing key objects in the British Museum collection. Focusing on the Parthenon sculptures, students will be introduced to the Ancient Greek cultural and historic context in which they were created and consider the impact the Ancient Greeks had on western culture over the next two millennia. During the session there will be opportunities to share ideas and draw conclusions, practise speaking, listening and questioning skills.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Gallery 18</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Format</td>
<td>Talk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>Max 15 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>45 mins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Price</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session</td>
<td>Weekdays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Times</td>
<td>Start times 10.30am, 11.30am and 1pm</td>
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In detail

- Students will begin by locating the Parthenon sculptures in place and time.
- To encourage students to think critically about why built heritage and particularly the Parthenon sculptures are significant they will then be asked to consider in pairs or small groups why the Parthenon sculptures are one of the most visited objects at the British Museum. They will be encouraged to make connections between the Ancient classical world and their experience of the world today.
- The session will develop close observational skills as students explore primary evidence to investigate different aspects of the sculptures including mythical stories depicted in the pediment and metopes and look at the
frieze for evidence of the activities which took place as part of the Panathenaic feast.

- Students will be introduced to the role of archaeology in learning as we think about how materials survive over time and consider what has happened to the sculptures over the last 2,500 years.
- Through the session students will be encouraged to understand that the past is constructed through different interpretations of evidence.

**Key themes**

Buildings as symbols of ideas /culture, representations in art of the ‘civilised’, the ‘barbarian’ / ‘other’, Ancient Greek (Athenian) society, art, architecture and power, material culture as evidence.

**Before your visit**

- Please make the purpose of the Museum visit clear to your students before they arrive so know the expected outcomes of the visit.

**After your visit**

- Your session and museum visit can be a platform for wider work back at school. It can be documented during the session, e.g. using digital cameras so that further in discussions can be done on themes back at school.

**Find out more**

[www.britishmuseum.org/schools](http://www.britishmuseum.org/schools)
[www.ancientcivilisations.co.uk](http://www.ancientcivilisations.co.uk)
Search the British museum collections online