Key Stage 4
The Parthenon

Notes for teachers

Curriculum links
• Classical Civilisations

About this session

Focusing on the prescribed material source, the Parthenon sculptures, this gallery-based talk is designed to support the Classical Civilisations GCSE component Myth and Religion (J199/11). Students will investigate, analyse and interpret material evidence to explore the Ancient Greek social, cultural and historic context in which they were created.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Gallery 18</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Format</td>
<td>Talk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>Max 15 students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>45 – 60 mins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Price</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session Times</td>
<td>Weekdays</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Start times 10.30am, 11.30am and 1pm</td>
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In detail

• Using critical thinking and enquiry skills students will find out about the original style, location, appearance and purpose of the Parthenon.
• In pairs or small groups students will discuss why the Parthenon sculptures are one of the most visited objects at the British Museum. They will consider built structures as symbols, what the Parthenon represents today and how it demonstrated Athenian wealth and power at the time of its creation.
• The session will develop close observational skills as students explore the primary evidence to investigate different aspects of the sculptures: mythical stories depicted in the pediment, including the naming of Athens, the metope Centauromachy and frieze as evidence of the activities which took place as part of the Panathenaic feast.
• Through the session students will be encouraged to understand that the past is constructed through different interpretations of evidence.
• Students may begin the session by identifying key architectural features using the Neried tomb.
• With advance notice we may be able to arrange an opportunity to visit the prescribed object, the Bassae frieze. If you would like to visit the Bassae frieze please indicate this on the Booking Enquiry Form.

Key theme
Art, architecture and power, propaganda, religion, myths, gods, their symbols and how they are represented in Ancient Greek art, representations of the ‘civilised’ and the ‘other’.

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
www.ancientcivilisations.co.uk
Search the British museum collections online