



Parthenon Challenge

The Parthenon was a former temple on the Acropolis dedicated to the goddess Athena, whom the people of Athens considered their patron.

This challenge will take you on a journey back 2000 years ago where the citizens of Athens are having a parade to celebrate Athena's birthday.

There are **3 challenges** for you to complete plus one **bonus** activity.

In order to complete the challenge you will need to use Google Street View: <https://artsandculture.google.com/streetview/british-museum/AwEp68JO4NEckQ>

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Back to the beginning: Athena's birth



Go to Room 18 on Google Street view

The East pediment showed the birth of the goddess Athena from the head of her father Zeus.



Zeus was the father of Athena and her mother was Metis, which means wisdom.



Zeus was told before Athena was born, that any child born to Metis would be more powerful than its father.



Zeus was very worried by this and decided to swallow Metis before she could give birth to the child.



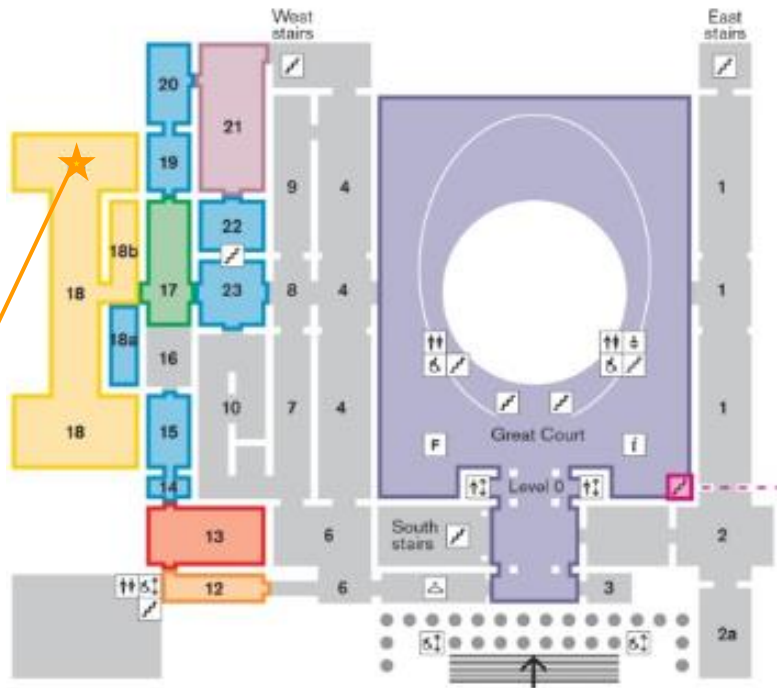
Sometime later Zeus began to have terrible headaches. The pain got so bad that Zeus asked Hephaistos to cut his head open to see what was wrong.



When Hephaistos opened his head, Athena emerged from Zeus' skull, fully grown and dressed for battle.



Move to the top of Room 18 in Google Street View and find the sculptures from the East Pediment



East Pediment Sculptures





Challenge

Match the silhouette to its Greek god sculpture in the gallery.

Use the descriptions below to find the name of each of the gods shown in the sculptures and write them in the table.

Dionysos

Selene

Hestia, Dione, Aphrodite

Demeter, Persephone

(God of wine, shown leaning against a rock)

(The moon goddess drawn by a horse and chariot)

(Three goddesses shown sitting/ lying together)

(Two goddesses sat together on square seats)

Silhouette

Name of god(s)



The battle between the Centaurs and Lapiths



Stay in Room 18

The legend of the battle between the Centaurs and the Lapiths is shown on the carvings above the Parthenon columns.

The Centaurs



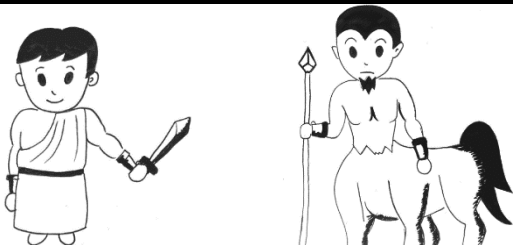
The Lapiths



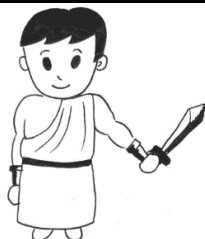
The legend goes that the centaurs were invited to the wedding of King Pirithous of the Lapiths and Hippodameia.



The centaurs drank a lot of wine, and as Pirithous and Hippodameia were about to be wed the centaur Eurytion jumped up and tried to run off with the bride.



This caused a great battle between the rest of the centaurs and the Lapiths.



The Lapiths won the battle and drove the centaurs from their lands.



Challenge

Part 1: Get a member of your family or a friend to cut up the jigsaw pieces for you from the Sheet titled '**Metope Puzzle**'.

Use the puzzle pieces to recreate one of the scenes from the battle.



Part 2: Find the sculpture from the puzzle within the gallery using Google Street View.

Read the text that goes with the metope here:

https://research.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/collection_object_details.aspx?objectId=461683&partId=1

Part 3: What type of animal is the centaur holding the skin of? Write your answer below:

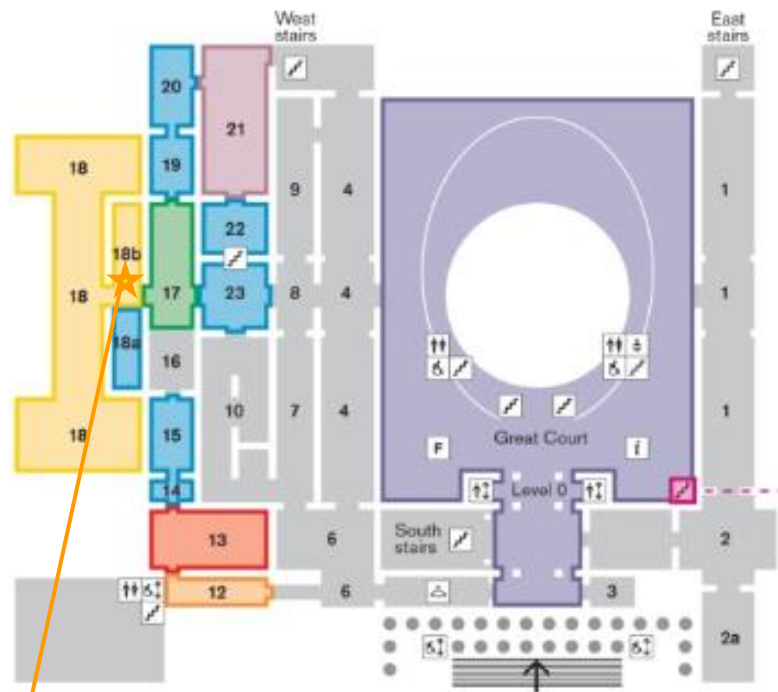
3

Athena's Birthday

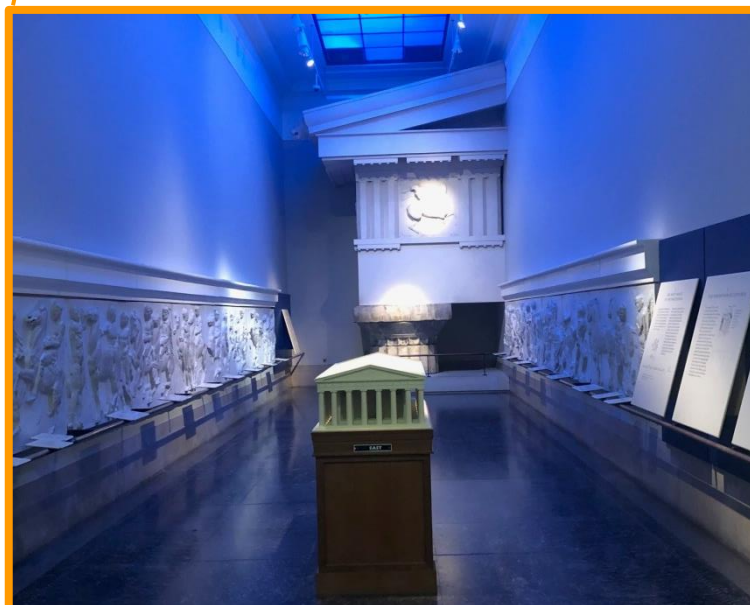


Move to Room 18b on Google Street View

This challenge looks at the Athenian community in procession, honouring the goddess Athena on her birthday. Each long procession was led by chariots and included elders, musicians, priests and priestesses, tray bearers and citizens bearing gifts. The main gift for Athena was the Peplos, a sacred robe, which was taken to the temple.



Room 18b





Challenge

Use the replica friezes in Room 18b to answer the questions.

Find the text panel number 2. What was the name given to the festival where the procession took place?

How many columns are on the East Facade of the temple replica?

Find the example of the painted decorations. What colours are used other than white?

How many horses are there on display?



Move back to Room 18 on Google Street View

Can you find **Athena** in the sculptures in Room 18?

Clue: She is sitting on a chair next to the Priest and the Child holding the sacred robe. Look for one of the dots highlighting an information bubble.

What number is written underneath where she sits? (You will have to zoom in!)



Bonus: Parthenon Wordsearch

Can you find the 16 Parthenon-themed words?

x	n	o	i	s	s	e	c	o	r	p	x	p	c	z
a	z	e	m	t	i	w	s	s	u	j	y	j	t	b
r	y	s	b	s	r	u	r	i	x	s	t	j	b	x
p	m	h	d	o	s	a	r	l	b	z	n	a	g	r
a	e	g	i	p	r	t	u	o	l	b	e	t	y	k
r	t	k	a	m	a	e	a	p	i	m	m	e	e	y
t	o	i	r	a	h	c	t	o	f	w	i	m	b	k
h	p	p	n	x	p	p	n	r	l	k	d	p	t	l
e	e	g	i	y	h	q	e	c	e	h	e	l	n	s
n	h	a	v	x	z	e	c	a	v	q	p	e	s	e
o	u	v	s	a	i	m	e	d	o	p	p	i	h	l
n	o	i	a	r	r	p	s	p	l	p	e	p	r	e
y	a	r	e	i	d	l	o	s	o	t	v	b	h	n
e	z	e	i	r	f	j	u	s	u	e	z	a	j	e
h	t	i	p	a	l	v	a	t	h	e	n	a	o	x

Words	Definition
Zeus	god of the sky, ruler of all the gods
Athena	goddess of wisdom and war, Zeus' daughter
Parthenon	a former temple on the Athenian acropolis
metope	square carved panels
pediment	triangular shapes at each end of the temple
frieze	a long scene that ran around the temple
peplos	a sacred robe used in the procession
robe	a long, loose piece of clothing
soldier	a person who serves in an army
chariot	a two-wheeled vehicle drawn by horses
Selene	the moon goddess
lapith	legendary people from Greek mythology
centaur	a creature with the head and torso of a man and the body of a horse.
acropolis	a fortified part of an ancient Greek city, typically built on a hill.
temple	a building devoted to the worship of a god(s)
procession	a group moving together for a ceremony

Congratulations you have completed the challenge!