

Students participating in this tour will examine a variety of objects including vases, sculptures, jewelry, and armor, which tell stories about the lives and beliefs of the ancient Greeks and Romans. Use the suggestions below either before or after your museum visit to encourage further inquiry in the classroom.

ACTIVITIES:

- Go to the Walters website (www.thewalters.org), and under the Ancient World part of the Collections section of the site, look at the Roman *Portrait of a Man*, *Head of Augustus*, and *Head of Marcus Aurelius*. (You might want to print overheads of these for classroom use.) The subjects of these portraits were important public figures. Since most of their constituents would never have had the chance to meet them in real life, they would have had to rely on sculptures such as these to help them to form opinions of their leaders. The artists who made the portraits were often not as concerned with creating a likeness of the person as they were with communicating ideas about their personality. Ask students: Are the subjects of these three portraits trying to communicate something about themselves? What do you see in the sculptures that makes you say that? In what ways do leaders today try to project a certain image of themselves to the public?
- The study of everyday objects from Greece and Rome can help students understand ancient daily life. Use the attached worksheets to help students look closely at some objects from our collection. Ask the students to think about what these items might reveal about what was important to the Greeks and Romans.
- If your students did the observation exercise above, they might have noticed that many functional objects of ancient Greece and Rome also had a narrative quality, telling stories about the people's religious beliefs or their everyday lives and activities. Ask students to redesign an everyday object that they use today to tell a story about what's important to them now. In choosing their objects to redesign, perhaps they could consider making the modern equivalent of amphorae, cistae, or mosaic floors.



VOCABULARY:

Amphora - A two-handled vase used for storage of olive oil, water, or wine.

Attribute - An object closely associated with or belonging to a certain person, thing, or office, often used for identification in painting and sculpture.

Banquet Couch - Seating for Roman banquets. These couches would be grouped around tables of food, enabling guests to recline while eating.

Black-Figure Vase - A term applied to a type of Greek vase painting (7th and 6th Century B.C.) in which the figures and objects were painted primarily in black against a lighter ground, usually natural clay, which becomes orange-red after firing.

Idealism - A belief in depicting a perfect version of a subject, rather than representing it as it truly is.

Maenads - Female worshippers of Dionysus, the god of wine. Known for their gaiety, mad songs, and frenzied dancing, they are often portrayed in swirling drapery, playing a tambourine or other instrument (see image of red-figure amphora on worksheet).

Naturalism - The belief that art should adhere as closely as possible to the appearance of the natural world.

Portrait - Art representing the likeness of an individual.

Red-figure vase - A term applied to Greek vase painting toward the end of the 6th Century B.C., in which the figures are first outlined in black. The background is then painted black, leaving the figures the reddish color of the baked clay after firing.

Relief - Sculpture which is not freestanding, but is carved or cast so that it projects from a surface of which it is part.

Sculpture in the Round - Three dimensional, free-standing sculpture.

Toga - A loose outer garment worn by ancient Roman citizens when appearing in public; it consisted of a single, long piece of material, without sleeves or armholes, that could be draped over the body in a variety of ways.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Ancient Greece (DK Eyewitness Books), Anne Pearson

Ancient Rome (DK Eyewitness Books), Simon James

Spend the Day in Ancient Rome, Linda Honan

The Ancient City: Life in Classical Athens and Rome, Peter Connolly and Hazel Dodge

City, David Macaulay

Also see the resources section of the Mythology Pre- and Post-visit page

Use the Walters' *Greece and Rome* Teacher Resource Kit for more ideas and images of objects!

Email schoolprograms@thewalters.org for more information.

Name _____



Observations: What do you see in the image above?

Ideas: What do you think this was used for? What does it tell you about the people who used it?

Questions: What would you like to ask the person who owned this object?

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