

Greek Vases

LO: To observe closely the shape, pattern and design on different vases.



Ancient Greek Vases

Ancient Greek Pots Tell A Story

Greek potters were constantly changing the shape of their famous vases and pots. In ancient Greece, it was not enough to create something that was beautiful. It also had to be comfortable. If the vase, pot, or pitcher had a handle, that handle had to be easy to hold and fit comfortably into the grip of your hand. The Greeks considered themselves scientists as well as artists. Everything had to be perfectly proportioned.

The designs on their pottery told a story. Some told stories of daily life. Others told stories of wars and heroes. All designs, whatever they were, had to represent something that people would find pleasing. Geometric designs had to be familiar, a design perhaps that could be found in a temple or a fabric. The colours were soothing and comfortable.

Most Greeks were cremated and buried in pots. Even though the pots were to be buried, they still had to be perfect. The ancient Greeks were perfectionists.

If you would like to find out more about the Ancient Greeks, visit the website below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z87tn39>

Look at each image closely (on the next sheet). Focus on the different shapes and compare them.

Look at the main picture, what is it portraying?

What colours are used?

Notice the pattern borders and edges. How are they created?

In your sketchbook (or on paper/the sections below), quarter the page and draw your 4 favourite shapes.

Pick 4 main designs and draw them.

Decorate each one with a different pattern. Colour with orange, brown and black wax crayons or coloured pencils (or media of your choice).

You could then choose your favourite design and make a large vase in that style if you wish?



Notice how they used patterns around the neck (top) and base of the vases. See if you can use some of these patterns on your vase:

