
The Greeks Key Stage Two Answers

Museum of Classical Archaeology



Colour

Bay A

Look in Bay A and find the largest coloured statue.

1. Is the statue of...

a) an athlete?

b) a young woman?

c) a soldier?

2. Which of these colours can you find on it?

Circle your answers. *All can be found on the statue.*

red blue green brown black white

How did the Ancient Greeks make these colours? What might they have used to make their paint?

The Greeks made their coloured paints by grinding up natural things that they found around them, for example different coloured earth, stones and plants, as well as oxidised metals.

3. Metal was stuck on the statues too. Can you find:

Earrings

Brooches

Umbrella

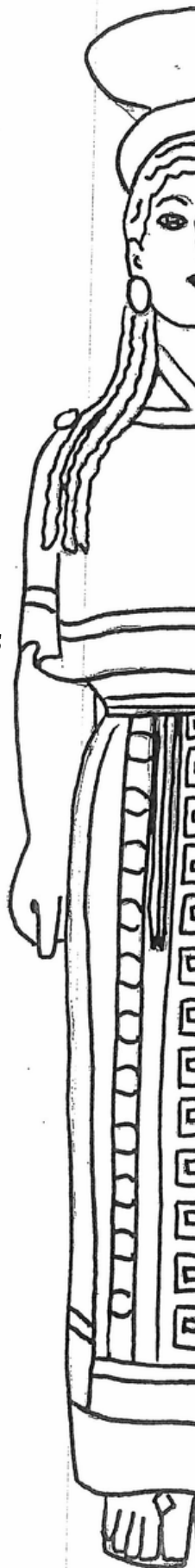
Children should identify earrings, brooches (on shoulders) and an umbrella. The umbrella would have been used on the statue to keep off bad weather and perhaps bird poo!

4. Look the other statues in Bay A. They might have once been coloured too! What do you think has happened to the colour?

On many of the original statues the colour has rubbed off or faded over the years. In some cases the colour was cleaned off the statues by archeologists and collectors, who preferred the plain marble look.

5. Do you prefer coloured or plain statues? Why?

No right or wrong answer here!



Colour

Drawing Space

Have a go at drawing the coloured statue. Can you label the colours and the metal details?

Hungry for more?

6. Colour shows itself in the museum in lots of different ways.

Other than paint, how else did the Greeks and Romans add different colours to their statues?

Different coloured stones, metal statues and metal add ons, stones added for eyes.

Athletes

Bay B and C

1. Look in Bay B and find some carvings of people playing sports on the wall.

Which sports can you see? Write them down.

Sports shown: Cat and dog fight, wrestling, something that looks like hockey (we don't know exactly what it was), ball game, chariots and soldiers.

Which activities are still played as sports today?

Most of them. You could argue that car racing is the modern version of chariot races.

Which are not?

Cat and dog fights are illegal today.

Who is playing? Men or Women?

Men are playing. Women were allowed to play sports but they would do it separately from the men.

2. Go to Bay C and find an athlete who is about to throw something.

What is he called?

He is called the "Discus Thrower" or Diskobolos in Greek.

Can you tell from the statue what could happen next?

He is about to throw the discus. You can tell by looking at his body shape and the way he is bending his arms.

Do you think he might win?

You can use this question to ask the children whether they have tried this sport or to discuss the muscles of the statue.

3. The ancient Greeks used a lot of sports equipment similar to things we use today. Can you draw as many pieces of sports equipment as you can find?

Could spot: discus, javelin, balls, hockey sticks.

Athletes

Drawing space

Draw your favourite ancient Greek sport in action.

Hungry for more?

4. Go to Bay F and the man scraping himself. Can you find out what a "strigil" is?

A strigil was a tool used for scraping oil and sweat off the body after sport. They were usually made of metal.

Hybrids

Bay C and D

Ancient Greek mythology had many stories about creatures that were mixes of different animals.

1. Go to Bay C. There is a big group of Greeks fighting centaurs. What is a centaur? Circle your answer.

- a) half man – half goat.
- b) half goat – half horse
- c) half man – half horse**

Can you find...

- a) a centaur biting a man's arm
- b) hands pulling at hair

2. In Bay D there are some more centaur fights. How many centaurs can you spot?

There are at least 6 more to spot (depending on whether you count the frieze high on the wall!)

3. There are many statues of Athena in Bay D, including the big one at the end. She is covered in hybrid creatures.

On her armour, can you find...

- a) winged horses
- b) a sphinx (part lion, part human, with wings)
- c) snake-haired Medusa

A and B can be found on her helmet, C on the front of her chest.

Hybrids

Drawing space

Can you create your own hybrid creature? Label each separate animal.

Hungry for more?

4. If you go to Bay B and look right in the top corner of the central wall, you can see a hybrid creature called the Minotaur. What is the Minotaur a hybrid of?

The Minotaur was half-bull and half-man.

Gods and Goddesses

Bay E

1. Go right down to the far end of the museum, between Bays D and E. Find the huge goddess. Who is she? How do you know?

She is Athena. There are a few clues they can tell by - she has battle gear on: a helmet, spear, shield, breastplate as she is the goddess of war.

She also has an owl next to her - to symbolise she is the goddess of wisdom.

The snake might be connected to the origin myth of Athens, and the King Erechtheus - who was half-man half-snake.

2. There are lots of gods and goddesses in Bay E. Look at what they are holding and wearing. Can you find...

Artemis, goddess of hunting. (Roman name - Diana).

How do you know it's her?

Possible answers: deer, quiver of arrows, short dress for running in.

Hermes, messenger god, (Roman name - Mercury).

How do you know it's him?

There are a few Hermes statues around. Possible answers: he wears winged sandals and carries a special staff with snakes and wings (it's called a Caduceus).

Aphrodite, goddess of love and beauty, (Roman Name - Venus).

How do you know it's her?

Possible answers: she is naked (about to take a bath or just taken one), she is wearing jewellery, she has a pot of water next to her.

3. Who is your favourite god or goddess in this museum? Why?

No right or wrong answer here! Feel free to explore gods and goddesses in other Bays. The round wellheads (Bays D, G, and K) have many different gods and goddesses on them.

Gods and Goddesses

Drawing Space

Draw one god or goddess. You can draw one from the museum or create your own. Label them to show what they are wearing and holding and why.

Hungry for more?

5. There are not many statues of Hades, god of the underworld, in ancient Greece. Why do you think that might be?

Various answers possible. People were scared of death/ of Hades, people worshipped Hades in a different way, more secretive.

Herakles (Hercules)

Bay K and Bay B

1. Bay K. Look at the huge Farnese Herakles. The Greeks called this hero "Herakles". The Romans called him "Hercules".

What do you know about him?

They may know the Disney film, or about his twelve 'impossible' labours/tasks.

2. How did the sculptor show the strength of Herakles in this sculpture?

His size, his over-exaggerated muscles, the size of the club he uses, the lion skin.

3. What is his arm resting on? What is he holding in his other hand?

His arm is resting on a club and a lion skin (look for the paws). There are the apples of Hesperides (part of one of his 12 labours).



4. Head to Bay B and find three sculptures of Herakles completing his labours on the wall.

Can you find:

Herakles holding up the sky

Herakles wrestling a bull

These are along the outer wall.

5. The goddess Athena is stood behind Herakles holding up the sky. What is she doing? Why?

She is helping him! Hercules was a favourite of Athena and she helped him with a lot of his tasks.

Hercules

Drawing space

The third carving is broken. It showed Herakles with the Stymphalian Birds. These mythical creatures were birds with feathers they shot like arrows. They had sharp beaks and ate humans! Can you draw what you think they looked like below?

Hungry for more?

6. Can you come with your own impossible task for Herakles to complete?

Whatever the children want him to do! You can point out that he often has to fight monsters.