

## HOW TO USE THESE MATERIALS

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This resource is designed to introduce the Greek art galleries to teachers and their students, and to provide them with a general understanding of ancient Greek culture. The range of materials included here gives the teacher greater flexibility in engaging students of any age with the art of ancient Greece.

Context for the Museum's collection of Greek art is provided in the following: a **Map of the Ancient Greek World**; a section entitled **Key Aspects of Fifth-Century Greek Life**; an overview of **Greek Art** from ca. 4500 B.C. through the fourth century B.C.; a section entitled **Artists and Materials**; and a **Timeline** that focuses on major Greek historical and cultural achievements of the fifth millennium through the fourth century B.C. Since so many Greek works of art in The Metropolitan Museum of Art relate to Athens, a brief history of that city-state is also included. Readers who skim these sections first will acquire rich associations to bring to the rest of the materials.

Twenty slides and one poster illustrate a cross section of objects in the Museum's collection. Teachers may want to show all of the slides as a chronological synopsis of ancient Greek art, or they may prefer to present only some of them within a thematic framework, a few ideas for which are listed below. Students always find that a subsequent trip to the Museum to see the actual works is a rewarding experience.

Each slide description provides information on the individual work of art and includes a section entitled **Questioning**, which applies to most students in the classroom or galleries. Sometimes sections called **Activity** and **Discussion** appear as well. The **Activity** sequence offers techniques that shed light on a specific work of art for use in the classroom or galleries. The **Discussion** segment is a conceptual exercise based on quotations from ancient authors and modern scholars; it is intended for older, especially high school, students in the classroom.

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For further classroom preparation before a visit to the Museum, this resource also includes four **Class Activities** and three additional, more formal **Lesson Plans**.

For visits to the Museum, you may wish to use the information in the section entitled “**Hunts**” **Inside the Museum**. These explorations of the Greek art galleries and other collections in the Museum introduce the students to works of art associated with the Trojan War, Homer’s *Odyssey*, Greek heroes such as Perseus, Herakles, and Theseus, other Greek myths and legends, and Greek historical subjects.

A section titled **The Greek Alphabet** helps students sound out inscriptions that are still visible on many works of art in the Greek art galleries. (The English translation of the ancient Greek text is provided on most labels.) *A note on spelling:* whenever possible, the Greek form of names (e.g., Patroklos) and terms (e.g., kithara) has been used here, unless their English form is so common that it might be confusing to do so (e.g., Athens).

Finally, an annotated bibliography, videography, and list of Web resources will help you gather the additional information you may need to make your class’ exploration of the Greek art galleries a stimulating adventure in learning.

#### **BENEFITS TO STUDENTS STUDYING ANCIENT GREEK ART**

- Students will encounter significant and beautiful, even inspirational, works of Greek art and will be able to assemble a repertoire of visual references that will serve them well when they study the art of later periods, such as the Middle Ages and Renaissance, that were influenced by Classical art. In fact, resonances of ancient Greek culture survive even in modern society.
- Students will strengthen their critical thinking. Through close analysis and inquiry, they will arrive at their own conclusions regarding the importance of works of art.

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- By encountering the layers of problem solving inherent in these works, students will explore various analytical possibilities.
  - As students consider the broader contexts of art, such as historical events, philosophical movements, and literature, they will gain new insights into the creation of specific works of art.
  - Students will strengthen and refine their research skills by close examination of the actual works of art.

### THEMES

Animals: *slides 7, 14*

Death: *slides 2, 3, 6, 7, 14, 20*

Deities and myths: *slides 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 18*

The female form: *slides 4-6, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20*

The male form: *slides 1-3, 5, 6, 8-11, 13, 16, 19*

Music: *slides 1, 10*

Sports: *slides 8, 16, 18*

Warfare: *slides 9, 13, 15, 18, 19*

### MATERIALS

Bronze: *slide 12*

Ceramics: *slides 2, 4, 5, 8-11, 18*

Gold: *slide 19*

Sculpture

Freestanding: *slides 1, 3, 7, 13, 15, 16, 20*

Relief: *slides 6, 14, 17, 19*

