



#FontanaTogether

Greek Vase

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 colors 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.

Archaeologists have discovered a great many ancient Greek pieces of pottery. Between household vases and funeral pots, archaeologists have been able to piece together a great deal of knowledge about daily life in ancient Greece.



Students will design patterns and use visual storytelling to make their own vessel inspired by Greek art history. Students will learn about Ancient Greek Pottery designs as they make their own mini vases using styrofoam cups and paint.

Objective

- Students will create a narrative or pattern to depict in their artwork.
- Students will gain a more comprehensive awareness of positive and negative space.

Materials

- Styrofoam cups
- Oil Pastels/ Markers (black and red)
- Sharpened pencil
- Tissues
- Art reproductions (of Greek vases)



Instructions:

1. Lightly draw your own story in 2 parts, first on paper and then on both sides of the cup with a pencil. Emphasize the use of clear outlined images and design with few details
2. Using the pencils, “carve” into the lines you wish to keep without breaking the cup. Take your time.
3. Color inside the outlined areas with black pastel/marker then color black. Color outside of the black forms (negative space) with red pastel/marker. Smudge the pastel/marker onto the cup using tissues. An “outline” will appear white around the forms from the cup color.
4. After the vases are complete, write a short story describing the image on your work of art.