

Greek Temples Key Stage 2 Support Notes for Teachers

Before your visit: preparing for your workshop

- Key themes for the workshop are Greek temples, buildings, decoration and gods and goddesses. Explore the idea of Greek temples with your students – e.g. what they were used for, what objects were in them, where they might be situated, and what materials they were built from
- Key vocabulary includes Athena, stucco, marble, gods and goddesses, Parthenon, Acropolis, columns, Doric and Ionic. You might like to discuss these words before the workshop.
- Use the Explore section of the British Museum website www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/explore to search for objects about Greek temples in the Museum's collection.
- Look at the Ancient Greece learning site particularly www.ancientgreece.co.uk/acropolis



During your visit

- The session consists of two parts. In the first part students will explore the key elements of Greek temples, the building and decoration by using the 'Build a Temple' challenge contained in the Acropolis section of the museum's ancient Greece website www.ancientgreece.co.uk/acropolis Students will be challenged to build temples according to budgets (supported by simple spreadsheets) and will have to make critical decisions about the style, size and decoration of their temples.

In the second part students visit the Parthenon (Room 18) and surrounding galleries to investigate the decisions they made in the context of the Parthenon. You will lead this part of the session using enquiry sheets printed by the museum and provided in the first part of the session.

- Other galleries with objects relating to the workshop include
Room 16: Bassae sculptures (subject to gallery availability)
Room 17: The Nereid Tomb
Room 18: The Parthenon Sculptures
Room 77: Greek and Roman Architecture (subject to gallery availability)
Online materials about Greek architecture, the Nereid Tomb and the Parthenon will shortly be available on the British Museum website at www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/learning/schools_and_teachers/primary/ancient_greece.aspx

After your visit: follow-up activities

- You may like to continue looking at objects from ancient Greece in the British Museum's collection via the Explore section of the Museum's website at www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/explore/introduction.aspx
- There is a British Museum interactive learning site at www.ancientgreece.co.uk where you may like to direct students to the section on the Acropolis www.ancientgreece.co.uk/acropolis or the city of Athens at www.ancientgreece.co.uk/athens/home_set.html
- Explore where Greek temples were built: were they all built in Greece? Perhaps students

could produce a display to show where in Europe and Asia Greek temples were built.

- Explore the variety of Greek gods and goddesses, their characteristics, the idea of dedicating temples to different gods and goddesses (perhaps that information could be added to a map or display).
- Discuss buildings that look like Greek temples - the British Museum, for example, or local buildings such as town halls or libraries.
- Design and build a Greek temple. If the roof can be lifted off or temple opened up in some way you can design and decorate the interior too.

Curriculum links

- History A European history study: *A study of the way of life, beliefs and achievements of the people living in Ancient Greece and the influence of their civilization on the world today.*
- Art and Design Unit 1C: *What is sculpture?* Unit 2C: *Can buildings speak?*

Contact details

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