

Ancient Greece Artefact collection (HI10034)

This collection contains a variety of Ancient Greek replica artefacts to support and enhance your learning about Ancient Greece.



Contents: -

1. 1 x Hanging oil lamp
2. 4 x Ancient Greek coins
3. 1 x Discus replica
4. 1 x Steel Corinthian Helmet
5. 2 x Replica Sandals
6. 1 x Ancient Greece Timeline
(Contents may vary)

Questions you could ask children about the artefacts

Initial Discussion

- What is this object?
- Does it resemble anything the children have seen?
- What do you think the item was used for and by whom?
- Does anyone know what it is called?

Collect any other questions the children might have about the artefacts and display them as you try to find the answers through your learning sessions.

Other questions to consider:

- Where does the object come from?
- Who might have made this object? And how were they made?
- Why were they made?
- **What do the objects tell us about life in Ancient Greece?** *This last question can be returned to at the end of the investigation.*

All About the Artefacts

1. Oil Lamp

Learn about ancient Greek life and how ancient Greeks used oil lamps for lighting. They were also important for religious purposes.

2. Coins

The standard silver coins were called drachma; one drachm was worth six obols. The larger silver coins were the tetradrachm which were worth more. The Greeks didn't write a value on the coin. The value was determined by the material the coins were made of and by the weight. A gold coin was worth more than a silver coin which was worth more than a bronze one. A heavy coin would buy more than a light one. The images on coins give us information about Greek life and culture.

3. Discus

Discuss the Olympic Games and compare the Games today with those in Ancient Greece. Find out the importance of sport for the ancient Greeks and which sports were part of the ancient Games. Find out when events were added to the Olympic Games and make a list of events at the latest Olympics. What things are similar and what has changed? Learn how to throw the discus and set up own mini-Olympics.

4. Corinthian Helmet

The Corinthian helmet takes its name from the ancient Greek city state Corinth. Often made from bronze. It would have been worn by ancient Greek hoplites (foot soldiers) In battle, hoplites fought as a team, lining up in ranks and locking their shields together. This formation was known as a phalanx. Enemy soldiers saw only a wall of spears and shields and it would have been tough to break through. A hoplite would have had to pay for his armour himself unless his father was killed in battle and his equipment passed on.

Find out about the hoplite's weapons and armour and draw and label a picture of a hoplite.

5. Sandals

Learn about the lifestyle and clothing of the ancient Greeks. Ancient Greece had a warm, dry climate. Hand-made using traditional materials and techniques.

Learn about these and have a go at designing and making own Greek sandals.

6. Timeline

Learn about key events and the three distinct periods of time: Archaic period, Classical period and Hellenistic period. Put significant times into chronological order such as, the first Olympic Games, the rise of philosopher Aristotle, the beginning of the Trojan War, when Alexander the great becomes king and when he dies, and when the Parthenon is completed in Athens.

Show continuities as well as change and use the timeline to give a 'sense' of the period.

Bury the artefacts in sand and create your own class archaeological dig. Make it clear that the artefacts are fragile and need to be excavated with care. Plastic pallet knives and paint brushes are ideal for this activity.

Section up the dig into square areas so that each child or group can work on one area. When they have found their artefact task them to fill out an 'artefact report' where they draw the artefact and describe its features and likely uses. Encourage them to do further research and then report back what they have found out, labelling and displaying their artefact to create a classroom museum of finds.

Reference Websites:

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/learn/schools/ages-7-11/ancient-greece>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/greeks/>