

Ancient Greece around the Museum
Gallery Trail

This trail helps you to find ancient Greek objects around the museum when the main Greek galleries are booked by another group.

This trail does NOT include Greece (16), Aegean World (20), Money (7) or the Cast Gallery (14).

GO OUTSIDE THE BUILDING TO THE FORECOURT

The Ashmolean was built in 1845 in the style of an Ancient Greek temple.
Look closely at the building and try to find these elements of Greek architecture.

Draw a line between the labels and the pictures below.

Pediment



Classical column

Key pattern

Capital

Mythical beast

Apollo



Apollo fact

In the Ancient Greek world, Apollo was the god of music, poetry and the arts. He was the son of Zeus, king of all the gods.



GO INSIDE AND FIND OUT MORE

GO TO: Ground floor, Gallery 21: Greek and Roman Sculpture

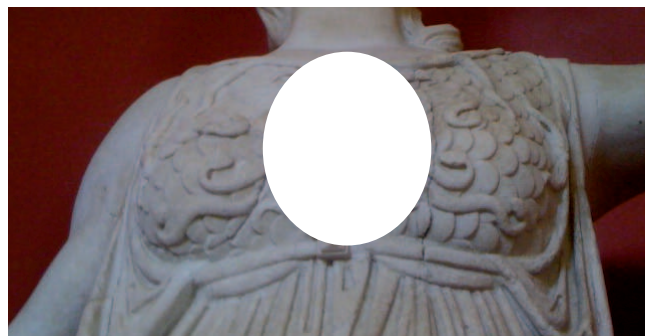
Outside, you met Apollo, an ancient Greek god,
Now let's meet a famous goddess.

Goddess Fact

This is Athena the patron goddess of Athens. She is also the goddess of wisdom and warfare. She always wears a helmet and the 'mask of Medusa' on her breast plate.



Look at Athena's breast plate. It shows Medusa with snakes for hair.
Draw Medusa's face onto this picture of the breastplate.



GO BACK INTO THE MUSEUM
Ground Floor, Gallery 9: Ancient World

Can you find a another mythical beast called a griffin, in this gallery?

In some parts of the world griffins were considered the legendary guardians of gold, and known to be brave, strong and cruel. This griffin was made 2,300-2,500 years ago in Ancient Greece.



Griffin fact

The griffin is a mythical creature that has the head and wings of an eagle and the body of a lion...

What material do you think it is made of?

Silver Bronze Wood

GO TO: Ground Floor, Gallery 9: Ancient World



Find this large Greek pot in the central case.
This shape of pot is called a krater.

How many horses can you see?

How many people can you see?

What is a krater?

A krater is a container used for mixing wine with water. Wine was usually diluted in Ancient Greece.

Draw the shape of this
krater pot in the box
below, with your own
design on it.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing the shape of the krater pot and adding a personal design.

GO TO: Level 2, Gallery 44, European Art

Find this bronze statuette of the famous Ancient Greek hero Heracles, whom the Romans called 'Hercules'.

Hercules Fact

Hercules was punished by the gods for really bad behaviour. He had to complete 'The Twelve Labours of Hercules' to make up for it.

Here Hercules performs his 'First Labour' by killing the 'Nemean Lion'. As a reward, he takes the magic skin of the lion to wear forever as a protection.



When you get home can you find out about the other labours of Hercules?

Now find this painting in the same gallery:



The Choice of Hercules by Paolo de' Matteis (1711)

- This painting shows Hercules going out into the world to seek his fortune.
- Here he arrives at a place where two paths meet. As he thinks about which path to take in life, he is approached by two beautiful ladies who try to persuade which way to go.
- Hercules has to choose between a hard life of adventure or an easy life.

Would you choose a life of adventure or an easy life?

Can you spot Hercules' magic lion skin?

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There are many more images and sculptures of Heracles around the museum. I wonder if you can find any?
TOP TIP: Try gallery 13: Rome