



Ancient Greek Vase Design – Year 3



Knowledge Organiser

Our Learning Journey

Lesson	Key Learning Question	Learning Objective	What I will learn
1  Investigating Greek Vases	What can Greek vases tell us about Ancient Greek life and art?	To investigate the features, purposes and decoration of Ancient Greek vases.	Why Greeks made vases, what they were used for, and how images and patterns tell us stories about their lives.
2  Exploring Greek Patterns	How did Greek artists use repeated patterns to decorate their vases?	To investigate and create Greek-inspired repeated patterns and borders.	About geometric patterns, borders and how repeating motifs create rhythm and organise space on a vase.
3  Sketching Greek Figures and Stories	How can we use simple drawings to tell a story on a Greek vase?	To sketch Greek figures, mythical creatures and simple story scenes in a Greek style.	How images on vases showed people, mythical creatures and stories, and how to use clear outlines and poses.
4  Designing My Greek Vase	How can I combine Greek patterns and images to design an effective vase?	To design a Greek-inspired vase using patterns, figures and a clear story or theme.	How to plan a vase design with borders, a central scene and a colour scheme that makes the story clear.
5  Making the Greek Vase	How can I use modelling techniques to construct a strong 3D vase?	To construct a Greek-inspired vase using modelling materials and appropriate techniques.	How to build a 3D vase with a stable base, secure joints, handles and a smooth shape using modelling techniques.
6  Decorating and Evaluating My Greek Vase	How can I decorate and evaluate my vase so that it reflects what I have learned about Greek pottery?	To decorate a finished vase using my design and evaluate the effectiveness of my artwork.	How to apply colour, patterns and details, and how to reflect on my work and identify strengths and improvements.

Greek Vases – What can they tell us?

Greek vases were made from clay and used for storing, transporting and serving liquids such as wine, oil and water. They were also very decorative and often showed stories from mythology, everyday life, sport and important events.



Amphora
(used for storing and carrying wine)



Kylix
(used for drinking wine)



Oinochoe
(used for pouring liquids)

Features of Greek Pottery

- Often black figures on a red/orange clay background (or red figures on a black background).
- Repeated geometric patterns and decorative borders.
- Scenes from mythology, daily life, sport and battles.
- Figures are often shown in profile with clear outlines.
- Images are carefully arranged to fit the shape of the vase.



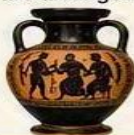
Key Vocabulary

Greek vase	A clay pot made by Ancient Greeks, often decorated with images and patterns.
Pottery	Objects made from clay that are shaped and fired to make them hard.
Amphora	A type of vase with two handles used for storing and transporting liquids.
Decoration	Patterns, images or designs added to make something attractive.
Pattern	A repeated design or sequence of shapes or lines.
Border	A decorative strip or band around the edge of a design.
Mythology	Stories about gods, heroes and monsters from Ancient Greece.
Daily life	The everyday activities and events of people's lives.
Symmetry	When both sides are the same or mirror each other.

Key Knowledge

Ancient Greeks made clay pots for both practical and decorative purposes.

- They were used to store, transport and serve food, wine, oil and other goods.
- Vases often show stories about mythology, history and everyday life such as sport, feasts and work.
- Artists used repeated patterns and borders to decorate the vase and frame the main images.
- The shape of the vase influences how the images are arranged.



Main Disciplinary Skills in this Unit

	Observing Looking closely at vases and patterns.
	Describing & Comparing Talking and writing about similarities and differences.
	Questioning Asking questions about what we see and why.
	Exploring & Creating Sketching, designing, making and decorating.
	Evaluating Reflecting on our work and suggesting improvements.

Remember!

Greek pottery is all about strong shapes, repeated patterns and clear stories.



Plan your design before you make.



Use borders to frame your main image.



Show movement with simple poses.



Use a limited colour palette for contrast.



Evaluate your work and think about how to improve.