

## Notes to Ancient Civilizations Lesson Two PowerPoint Presentation

1-2) Why *do* people create art? It's something that humans have done for tens of thousands of years, from Stone Age cave paintings to the pop art of Andy Warhol and everything in between, before, and after. Art is a creative medium, so let's think creatively about this question! We can study art by making it. **(Begin Pictionary warm-up.)**

Images:

- 1) Detail of Altamira cave painting, Upper Paleolithic, Spain
- 2) *Pieta*, 1499, Michelangelo, St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City
- 3) Mosaic, triumph of Neptune standing on a chariot pulled by two sea horses, 3<sup>rd</sup> century CE, Musée archéologique de Sousse, Tunisia
- 4) *Still Life: Vase with Twelve Sunflowers*, 1888, Vincent Van Gogh, Neue Pinakothek, Munich
- 5) "Thorn Puller", 19<sup>th</sup> century CE copy of 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE Roman original, Hearst Castle
- 6) Tapestry with scene of stag hunt, 16<sup>th</sup> century CE, Hearst Castle
- 7) Silver wine cistern, 18<sup>th</sup> century CE, Hearst Castle
- 8) Maiolica inkstand, St. George and the dragon, 16<sup>th</sup> century CE, Hearst Castle
- 9) Mosaic, merman and fishes, similar to 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE mosaics from Ostia, Hearst Castle

3) Besides appreciating art for its own beauty, we can also study it to learn about the culture that it was created in. You can look at the level of sophistication in creating artwork and learn how technologically advanced a culture is. Who is considered beautiful in America today? Just take a look at models in fashion shows and magazines for the answer. You can learn about beauty ideals and fashion in past cultures by looking at the way people are portrayed in art. What stories do we tell ourselves over and over? The stories and myths that are most often depicted in art suggest a culture's most important values and beliefs about itself. What do you think is suggested about American culture that a poem with the lines, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..." is engraved on a plaque near the Statue of Liberty, one of the first things many new immigrants saw when they arrived in this country in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries? Art can expose social issues with class, gender, and/or race in a culture. These are just some of the topics people like art historians and archaeologists investigate when studying art from other cultures.

Image: Detail of mural *Lewis & Clark at Three Forks*, 20<sup>th</sup> century CE, Edgar Samuel Paxson, Montana House of Representatives, Helena, Montana

4) Ancient Greek and Roman art has been studied and appreciated for thousands of years. Today, you get to be the art historians! What differences do you see between these two pieces? What do you think the stylistic differences might suggest about the cultures these art pieces were made in? Do you see any similarities?

Images (from left to right):

- 1) “Discobolus”, 19<sup>th</sup> century CE copy of Roman copy of lost 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE Greek original, Hearst Castle
- 2) Bust of Marcus Agrippa, 17<sup>th</sup> century CE in the style of ancient Roman bust, Hearst Castle

5) We’ll explore Greek art first. It was very influential on the Romans and almost every western culture that came after. Nudity is common in Greek art because the human body was considered beautiful and the point of creating art to the Greeks was mainly to display beauty. Classical Greece was fascinated with perfection and balance in all parts of life and this is reflected in their art. The Greeks were famous for their amazing sculpture (among many other things), but unfortunately not much of it still exists. However, the Romans were so impressed with it that copies were made of many of the most famous pieces and this is how we know what they looked like today. The vases of ancient Greece have survived better than their sculpture and are an important source of information about ancient Greek culture for the archaeologists who study them.

Image: “Discobolus”, 19<sup>th</sup> century CE copy of Roman copy of lost 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE Greek original, Hearst Castle

6-7) What do you think can be learned from a Greek vase? Looking at these examples, how difficult do you think it would be to make any one of them? Why do you think there are so many different shapes? What do you think they were used for? (The Greeks had dozens of different shaped vases for different uses. Artisans made their living by specializing in making pottery or painting it. What do you think these facts suggest about ancient Greek culture? (**Greeks had complex, technologically advanced culture.**)

**(All Greek vases in this lesson are part of the Hearst Castle collection.)**

Images (from left to right):

- 1) Attic neck amphora, chariot procession and geometric designs, 8<sup>th</sup> century BCE  
**(food storage)**
- 2) Attic column krater, Ajax carrying Achilles off battlefield, 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE  
**(mixing wine)**
- 3) Attic kylix, horsemen, men, and youths, 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE  
**(drinking wine)**
- 4) Etruscan duck shaped askos, 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> century BCE  
**(oil storage)**

8) Image: Attic column krater, departure of hoplites, 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE

9)

Images (from left to right):

- 1) Apulian oinochoe, 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE
- 2) Apulian cow headed rhyton, 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE

10) Image: Attic neck amphora, Apollo with bull and other gods, 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE

11) Image: Corinthian aryballos, roosters and goose, 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century BCE

12) Greek vases have a variety of different subjects painted on them, but people are the most common. The Greeks were very concerned with the human experience and this is reflected in how often people are the subject of their art. Archaeologists find the vases such a valuable source of information because they can learn about what religious beliefs people had, who did what in ancient Greece, and what the design of clothes, furniture, and other objects was like, among other topics of interest. The next few slides have examples of vases that show the division of labor between men and women in Greek culture. After viewing them, what do you think men typically did? (**physically demanding activities like sports, war, partying**) What about women? (**domestic chores. Notice all the women are dressed; “good” women were expected to be modest in Greek society.**)

Images:

- 1) Corinthian pyxis, siren, sphinxes, other animals, 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century BCE
- 2) Attic neck amphora, chariot procession and geometric designs, 8<sup>th</sup> century BCE
- 3) Attic lekythos, departure of warriors, 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE
- 4) Attic kalpis hydria, women picking fruit, 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE
- 5) Attic amphora, Dionysus on donkey with satyrs, 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE

13) Two sides of the same amphora; both sides have sporting events depicted. Pankration was a violent combination of boxing and wrestling where anything was legal except biting and gouging eyes. To signal defeat, the loser would throw up an index finger as can be seen on this vase.

Images (from left to right):

- 1) Attic amphora, pankration scene, 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE
- 2) Attic amphora, boxing scene, 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE

Images (from left to right):

- 1) Attic pseudopanathenaic amphora, boxing scene, 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE
- 2) Attic pseudopanathenaic amphora, horserace scene, 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century BCE

14)

Images (from left to right):

- 1) Attic amphora, warrior pursuing Persian, 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE
- 2) Attic column krater, fight over fallen warrior, 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE
- 3) Attic amphora, battle chariot, 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE

15) Image: Apulian column krater, banquet scene (symposium), 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE.

16) Image: kalpis hydria, women picking fruit, 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE.

17) Image: Attic kalpis hydria, women performing woolwork, 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE

18) The Romans were very impressed by the art and culture of ancient Greece and adopted much of it for their own. But the Romans also had native traditions that persisted throughout the

centuries in their art. Roman art would go through periods of being more stylistically Greek or traditionally Roman due to changes in Roman society. As Rome spread by conquest through Europe, Asia, and Africa, it brought its art along. Official state art was used as propaganda to promote the Roman agenda and belief system, especially during the imperial time period. Much of private art upheld Roman values as well, because there was a blending of public and private life for upper class Romans; they were expected to participate in politics and perform public or military service. Two distinctly Roman types of art are the giant monuments built to celebrate victories in war and the very realistic busts where the artist and patron were more interested in an accurate portrait than an idealized, beautiful one (like the Greeks preferred).

Image: Bust of Marcus Agrippa, 17<sup>th</sup> century CE in the style of ancient Roman bust, Hearst Castle

19) These two busts are called “veristic”. These means that they were intended to look true to life to the subjects portrayed. Both men have lines on their foreheads and gaunt cheeks. The man on the right is bald! Contrast this to the perfect, youthful, emotionless faces of classical Greek art. What do you think this style of art might say about Roman culture? (**Romans valued honest, serious, hardworking citizens.**) This style of portraiture was more popular when Romans wanted to focus on traditional Roman values: honesty, courage, and respect for family, civic duty, and military service. The Romans didn’t just create portraits in life, but also death. Look at the three people in this relief. Do you think they look like they might be related? This is a grave marker, so perhaps the individuals portrayed are family members. Honoring one’s ancestors was very important to the Romans and this is reflected in the elaborate funerary art that was created.

Images (from left to right):

- 1) “Capitoline Brutus”, 4<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries BCE, Capitoline Museums, Rome
- 2) Bust of old man in a coverlet, 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE, Vatican Museums, Vatican City
- 3) Grave marker, relief of three portrait heads, 1<sup>st</sup> century CE, Hearst Castle

20) This sarcophagus has a scene of Greeks fighting the Amazons, mythological warrior women. It was a popular design for sarcophagi from this time period. Rome was a cosmopolitan empire by the 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE, so it’s not surprising that myths and art from other cultures would be adopted by the Romans, especially anything Greek. What do you think it suggests about Roman culture that a sarcophagus, a final (hopefully peaceful) resting place for a person would be decorated with a war scene? (**Rome, a conquering empire, did not find war evil and valued those who served the state like soldiers; having one’s sarcophagus decorated with a battle scene could suggest one was a good citizen.**)

Image: Sarcophagus, battle of Greeks and Amazons, 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE, Hearst Castle

21) How many gravestones have you seen that thank President Obama? Serving the state and public service was strongly encouraged in Roman culture and for the upper classes (the ones who could afford elaborate funerary markers and tombs) there was a blending of public and private art.

Images: Cippus (grave marker), 1<sup>st</sup> century CE, Hearst Castle

22) Even some pieces of art that were obviously meant as public monuments were built to celebrate an individual's accomplishments, usually an emperor or general. The Romans are famous for monuments like Trajan's column, which was built to celebrate the emperor's successful campaigns in the Dacian wars. Unlike Greek art, which often used mythology as allegory for current or past events, the Romans created accurate historical narrative reliefs of the events that inspired the monuments the reliefs were displayed on. Here, you can see some of Trajan's soldiers building a fort. Next, soldiers crossing a body of water via a pontoon bridge. They carry their packs of supplies and are led by the standard bearer and the *velites*, soldiers who wore wolf skin cloaks and typically were used first in battle.

Images: Trajan's Column, 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE, Rome, Italy

23) Triumphal arches are another type of monument the Romans built. They inspired many cultures that came after to create their own victory arches to commemorate battles or heroes. Knowing that the Romans favored historical narratives over allegory, realistic portrayals of individuals, and large monuments that blurred the line between public and private life, what can you conclude about Roman culture? **(Traditional Roman culture instilled a sense of duty to the Empire and family in its members; to be a good person was to be a good citizen and vice versa. Romans were proud of their history and accomplishments and concerned with their honor, personal and civic.)**

Images (from left to right):

- 1) Arch of Trajan, 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE, Benevento, Italy
- 2) Arch of Septimius Severus, 3<sup>rd</sup> century CE, Khoms, Libya

24) Now that we've learned a little bit about Greek and Roman art, we'll have a quick quiz. You can use the notes on your graphic organizer to help. We'll look at some more pieces of art in the Hearst Castle collection and you'll identify the art as Greek or Roman in style.

Images:

- 1) Attic lekythos, two chariots, 6<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> century BCE (**Greek**)
- 2) Bust of Claudius, 1<sup>st</sup> century CE, National Archeological Museum of Spain, Madrid (**Roman**)
- 3) "The Wrestlers", 19<sup>th</sup> century CE copy of Roman copy of 3<sup>rd</sup> BCE Greek original, Hearst Castle (**Greek**)
- 4) Arch of Constantine, 4<sup>th</sup> century CE, Rome (**Roman**)
- 5) Bust of Nero, 17<sup>th</sup> century CE, some ancient, Capitoline Museums, Rome (**Roman**)
- 6) "Discophoros", 20<sup>th</sup> century CE copy of Roman copy of 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE Greek original, Hearst Castle (**Greek**)
- 7) Statue of Athena, 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE copy of 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE original, National Museum of Rome, Palazzo Altemps, Rome (**Greek**)
- 8) Wall painting, Baker Terentius Neo with his wife, 1<sup>st</sup> century CE, Pompeii, House VII, 2, 6, now located in the Museo Nazionale Archologico, Naples (**Roman**)

25) Although ancient Greece and the Roman Empire are no longer living cultures, many cultures that have come since, including ours, have been inspired by their history, philosophies, and art and continue to keep their memory alive with new works of art inspired by the ancients.

Images (from left to right):

- 1) Caryatid, 20<sup>th</sup> century CE, Julia Morgan and Van der Loo family (plasterworkers), Hearst Castle
- 2) Scipio Africanus tapestry, *The Battle of Tessin*, 16<sup>th</sup> century CE, Hearst Castle
- 3) *Galatea on a Dolphin*, 19<sup>th</sup> century CE, Leopoldo Ansiglioni, Hearst Castle