

S.2 ART HOLIDAY WORK

Instructions:

1. Write the notes in your art theory book you have been using at school
2. Draw only those images where you have been instructed to so.
3. Other images have been used to make you understand the concept better and for comparison purposes.

ANCIENT GREEK ART

Greece is one of the ancient European civilizations that made significant contribution to science, philosophy, music and art. In art, Greeks contributed significantly to painting, pottery, sculpture and architecture. Greek styles are still used in the production of art and architecture.

Ancient Greek art is displayed in four major periods, namely;

1. The Geometric period
2. The Archaic period
3. The Classical period
4. The Hellenistic period

The Geometric period; this period was dominated by large painted pottery in form of vessels e.g. Amphora whose surface was painted with geometric shapes or motifs to create human figures, animal figures and paintings on pots. Shapes such as squares, triangles rectangles and circles arranged in horizontal bands. This is what we called vase painting. They painted with pigments mixed with hot wax and paints from stones, earth, plants and hermaphroditic snail whose fluids turned blue when exposed to air and light.

Amphora Vase of the Geometric vase painting (Draw this image)



The subject matter of Greek painting includes dancing girls, Olympic athletes, centaurs and gods. Later they used foreshortening to illustrate depth.

The classical period of Ancient Greek Art (490BC-323BC)

The classical period of Ancient Greece begins with the Persian war and ends with the death of Alexander the Great (323 BC). During this period the Greeks produced great works in literature, poetry, philosophy, drama and art which had great influence on the civilization later on.

Painting during the classical period

Art historians believe that wall paintings existed during this period, but very little has survived today.

Greek pottery ceramics produced by the Greeks were far superior to anything made by other civilization. They were known for their craftsmanship because they produced vases, urns and bowls that were used for storage and carrying things like oil, grains and wine.

Vase painting in this period has the following characteristics:

- Perspective was achieved by arranging figures at different levels and at different sizes.
- Human figures became more realistic and dynamic (in motion)
- Intricate lines were used to depict the flow of drapery in respect of the underneath body structure.
- Use of foreshortening was seen in the drawing of feet that faced the observer (viewer).
- The red figure style became more commonly used but this time with more colours.

Sculpture during the classical period

It's unfortunate that few of these sculptures exist today as original pieces. Most of them are Roman copies of the originals.

Sculpture was made in both relief and free standing. Some were carved in stone and some cast in marble. Relief sculptures were used to decorate the friezes, cella walls of the Greek temples and other public places.

Characteristics of classical sculpture

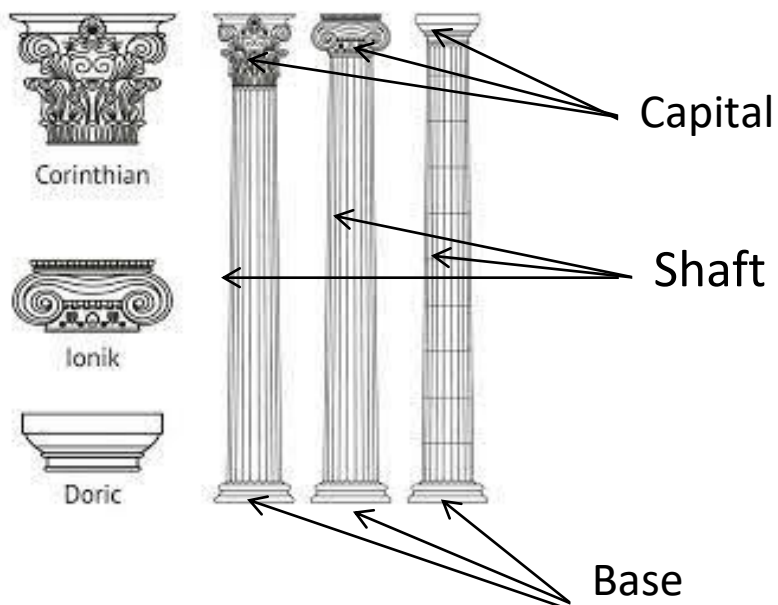
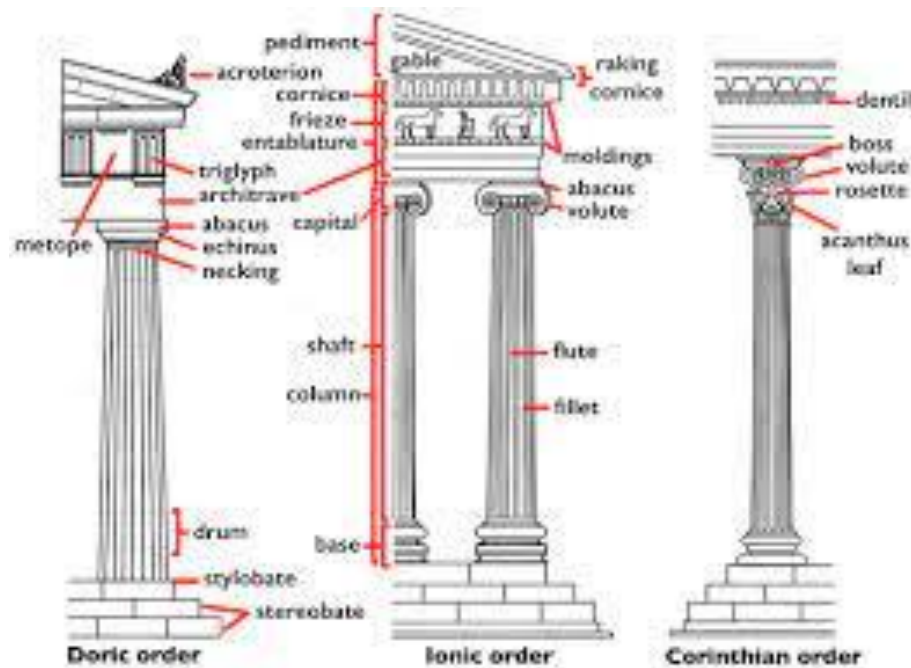
- Sculptures were made in both relief and in the round
- Free standing sculptures were more detailed compared to relief sculptures
- Compositions were based on both humans and animals
- The subject matter ranged from Greek gods, athletics and war affairs
- Both nude and draped figures were sculpted
- Materials used to sculpt were mainly Marble and bronze. The bronze sculptures were made through casting using the lost wax method.
- Emphasis was mainly put on body movement, balance and proportions
- Great study of the body structure bones and muscles
- Figures were depicted in dynamic poses with emotional appeal as regard to their poses.
- Artificial beauty is displayed in almost all the sculptures as the artist revealed body balance and proportion.

Architecture in the Classical period

The Ancient Greek style in architecture is mainly displayed in Temples and open air theatres. The architectural plan for the Greek temples was generally rectangular with length about twice its width, surrounded with columns; an open space called the porch and enclosed space called the cella.

There were three styles developed in architecture by the Greek tribes whose differences can be significantly seen in the structure of the columns and the entablature. These are commonly known as orders which include: the Doric order, Ionic order and Corinthian order.

Draw the architectural orders below; Doric, Ionic and Corinthian and label the sections as indicated.



- 1) The Doric order; The Doric order was developed by the Dorians, the column has a drum bowl- shaped capital, a grooved shaft but often without and no base. The column has an entablature, metopes and triglyphs.

- 2) The Ionic order column has an inverted bowl- shaped capital, a grooved shaft and a base but has no metopes and triglyphs over its entablature. Instead it has a frieze on which relief sculptures were put.
- 3) The Corinthian order developed by Corinthians, has the most decorated capital with shapes of flowers and leaves topped by small scroll, but with a shaft and base appearing the same as the Ionic column.

The Ancient Greek had a unique style of architecture that is still copied today in government buildings and major monuments throughout the world.

Their architecture was known for tall columns, intricate details, symmetry, harmony and balance.



Compare the columns on the Greek temple with those on the local house in Uganda today in the picture above.

Similarities	Differences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both serve a supportive and decorative functions Both columns have capitals and bases Both columns appear on the exterior of the buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greek columns have grooves, the house's columns do not. Greek columns are broad below and small towards the top, yet the house's columns are of the same size from the base to the top. Greek column are not painted yet the house's columns are painted The houses columns are small and short compared to the Greek columns. The Greek columns are closer to one another

	while the house's columns have varying distances.
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4) Open air theatres f Ancient Greece

Ancient Greece constructed places where they could clearly view different forms of entertainment and sporting activities. These were semicircular with seats ascending from the centre to the top of the structure, such as the Dionysus open theatre shown in the picture below. It's the biggest stone structure ever built. It has a semi- circular arrangement of the seats, arranged in an ascending order from the arena outwards which could enable all occupants to view the activities in the arena. This technique has been used to date in stadiums for sporting activities.



Hellenistic period of the Ancient Greeks (323-146 BC)

During this period, wall painting existed in tombs, but sculpture became more significant and expressive. Sculpture was commonly commissioned by the wealthy families and reflected common people, children animals and domestic scenes.

Characteristics of Hellenistic sculpture

- Sculpture represented either single figures or compositions carved in marble.
- Sculptures appeared perfect and beautiful
- The human figure was studied to perfection beyond its natural appearance regarding body structure and proportions

- Facial emotions and expressions became very clear
- More sculptures appear with great study of drapery with intricate folds following body forms.
- Also coins were made showing heads of the gods and rulers, which reflected great skills in casting images.

However Ancient Greece was conquered by the Roman Empire and the Romans recorded most of the art works that they came across. That's why many Greek sculptures exist today as Roman reproductions.

ANCIENT ROMAN ART

Ancient Roman was one of the largest empires led by worriers that greedily wanted to expand their territories.

Roman art took place during the period (500 BC -476 AD).

Ancient Romans believed in earthly life and its treasures. Art played a role in showing the prowess of Roman emperors. Artworks were done to commemorate the existence of their powerful Emperors e.g. the statue of Emperor Constantine, The Triumphal arch of Constantine, The Emperor Trajan, The Trajan column and its details etc.

Ancient Roman art mainly reflects power and influence that prevailed among its people. Roman art is portrayed in Painting, Sculpture Architecture and Mosaic.

1. Ancient Roman painting

Ancient Roman paintings were commonly made on interior walls as decorations. For example the Pompeii style. A variety of themes were composed of objects from still life, animals, and scenes from everyday life, myths and portraits.

They mostly used red, yellow and green in their paintings. All these artworks were painted on walls as frescos. (A fresco is a painting which is made by first sketching in wet plaster and then painting while the plaster is still wet. Such paintings become permanent on the walls.)

2. Ancient Roman Sculpture

Ancient Roman sculpture appears in form of portraits, freestanding and relief.

Generally Ancient Roman sculpture was Roman in subject matter but Greek in style. It's believed to have gained influence from Ancient Greek civilization as seen in the way they handled details in structure and drapery. The S- style of standing figures was adopted from the Greeks.

The Ancient Romans sculptures were made from either marble stones or bronze. They depicted emperors, heroes, warriors and heroic adventures.

In summary Ancient Roman sculpture can be viewed in the following ways:

- The sculpture included portraits, relief and freestanding figures
- It reflects the Greek style in a Roman character
- Reflects elegance and prowess of the Roman people
- A realism approach was followed in depicting the human figures
- Sculptures were either half draped or fully draped depending on the subject matter
- Drapery was treated with respect to the underneath body structure
- The sculpture were flexible, following the contraposto pose

Test yourself

- 1. Discuss the characteristics of Ancient Roman Sculpture**
- 2. Identify the characteristics of Ancient Roman sculpture that relate to Ancient Greek Art**
- 3. Discuss the statement that Ancient Roman Art is Greek Art in its final stage.**

3. Ancient Roman Architecture

Ancient Romans are known to have made great achievements in architecture. Many of their contributions are still seen today. They used stone and concrete to build the walls which they could sometimes cover with bricks to have a smooth finishing.

They discovered **cement** as a building material; this helped them to construct strong structures some of which are still standing today e.g. The Colosseum (largest amphitheater in the world), Aqueducts and The Pantheon.

The ancient Roman architecture is known to have discovered means of covering wide spaces using **Arches**.

The arches were used in the construction of **aqueducts** to transport water from the lakes and rivers to highly populated areas.

The arches were also used to build **bridges** and upper parts of **windows** and **entrances**.

The Romans were also able to obtain more interior space by using **Vaults** (a combination of arches used to bridge a wide space)

Just like the Ancient Greeks, Ancient Romans used columns for both supportive and decorative purposes. You may have observed that columns and arches are still used as part of architecture within your community.

Ancient Romans explored more interior space in architecture using arches and vaulting system.

END