

HELLENIC MUSEUM

EDUCATION WORKSHOP PROGRAMS

Discover the incredible stories that ancient Greek black and red figure vases can tell! Using the Object-based learning approach, this workshop is designed to engage students directly with ancient Greek history.



Vital Vases Workshop

Through actively observing replica ancient Greek black and red figure vases, students will be encouraged to use their senses such as touch and sight in order to interpret the artefacts, their meaning and historical significance. The workshop will challenge student's creative skills, spur group discussion and collaboration. By examining and interpreting artefacts students will learn the important skills of drawing historical conclusions based on visual evidence.

The **Vital Vases** workshop runs for approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes.

Workshops can accommodate a minimum of 15 and a maximum of twenty students at a time.

Cost per student is \$15 - combine a tour of the collection for an added \$5 per student.

For more information, or to make a booking, please contact the Hellenic Museum on 8615 9016 or email education@hellenic.org.au

Introduction and Part One

Introduction:

Exploring how ancient Greek vases were made and what they tell historians and archaeologists about life in ancient Greek civilizations.

Part 1: Form and functions of ancient Greek pots and vases

We explore the Kylix, Stamnos, Lekythos, Amphora and Hydra vase shapes and uses, by making analogies with the vessels we use in our lives today. Students will be encouraged to use their interpretive skills- looking closely and critically at the size, design, shape and style of museum handling vases- to deduce what they may have been used for in ancient Greece. Students will explain the reasoning behind their thinking and be encouraged to test out their hypotheses with experiential archaeological techniques!

Depictions on ancient red and black figure vases: Students will learn about red and black figure pottery techniques, and the mythological and daily life imagery depicted on ancient Greek vases. Students will be shown how to decode and read the imagery of ancient Gods, heroes, monsters and mortals so that they can enjoy the stories shown on vases- just like the ancients did!



Part 2: Grades 4, 5 and 6

In the second part of the workshop, students will engage in the Vase Story Telling Symposium. Working in groups, students will aim to decode, interpret and read the mythological stories depicted on their vases. Students will use the knowledge about reading ancient Greek pottery gained in part 1 to experiment with the handling vases.

With support from our workshop facilitators, students will write down their vase stories in preparation to present them to the symposium of story tellers. For the story telling symposium, students will sit in the poses of ancient Symposiasts and share their vase stories in honour of the Gods, heroes and beasts of antiquity. The symposium will be presided over by the all-important *symposiarchos* who will be ready to put any symposiast that tells too many stories or drinks too much ancient wine back in line!

The stories that we will explore on museum handling vases are:


The Iliad: The fate of Patroclus, warrior of the Trojan War

The Odyssey: Odysseus escapes the Sirens

Merchant life: Ancient seaborne trade

Pesky Pirates: Pirates of the Mediterranean

The greed of Pirates: Homeric Hymn to Dionysus



Part 2: Grades 1,2 and 3

Pass the Pot Storytelling Symposium:

Just like the Vase Story Telling Symposium above, Pass the Pot involves collective storytelling based on students decoding vase imagery. Whilst sitting in the poses of symposiasts, students will pass the handling pottery around in a circle. Each student that receives the pot next will identify one symbolic element/ imagery component depicted on the vessel. As the pots are passed around, the *symposiarchos* will facilitate collective decoding of imagery, and together we will interpret and tell ancient Greek vase stories. The *symposiarchos* will employ the **See, Think, Wonder** learning strategy to guide students in their analysis and interpretation of cultural materials.

OR

Paint your Story: Ancient Myths and Epics

After learning about Greek vases and how to decode the stories they depict, students will paint their own vase mould with a scene from Greek mythology. Students will aim to paint a scene that extends or fills a gap in the stories shown on the Hellenic Museum's handling pots. Just like the inventive vase painters of antiquity, such as Exekias, students will have creative licence to re-interpret myths and introduce some of the best loved characters of Greek mythology to new adventures.

- Grades 4, 5 and 6 are welcome to participate in the alternative options above.

Outcomes

This workshop will encourage students to:

Learn about the aesthetics, form, function and important role of ceramics in the everyday lives of ancient Greeks. Students will explore the vibrant world of ancient Greek vases and what it can tell us about the mythology, daily life, culture, religion, values, innovation and economy of ancient Greece.

Use their senses such as touch and sight in order to interpret the artefacts and their artistic, stylistic, symbolic and historical significance. The workshop will employ the Object-based learning approach to engage students directly with the museum's replica red and black figure handling vases, as well as vases on display. This engaging approach to learning will offer students a chance to look closely and critically at artefacts as primary sources.

Develop their interpretive and visual literacy skills by learning how to decode and read the iconography of ancient Gods, heroes, monsters and mortals.

Challenge student's creative skills and spur group discussion, collaboration, abstract and creative thinking and metacognition. Students will exercise and develop linguistic communication and written skills by actively expressing their interpretations and ideas to their peers.

Develop their intercultural capabilities by exploring the values and culture of ancient Greece, and by using their imaginations to bring to life the mythological stories depicted on ancient Greek vases.

By examining and interpreting ancient Greek vases, students will learn the important skills of drawing conclusions based on visual historical evidence. Students will be encouraged to use abstract and active learning techniques such as role play and experiential archaeological approaches to inform their interpretations.

