



# Learning Targets

- Student will develop plans for his or her own artwork (sketches and notes).
- Student will explain purposeful use of subject matter, symbols, and/or themes in his or her own artwork.

# How will we reach those targets?

- PowerPoint on Greek Vase Painting
- PowerPoint on Greek Mythology
- Research, summarize, and sketch a Greek myth to be illustrated on the vase
- Create scratchboard
- Decorate the vase, illustrating the researched myth, and including at least one meander pattern

# Europe



Map not to scale  
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# Greece



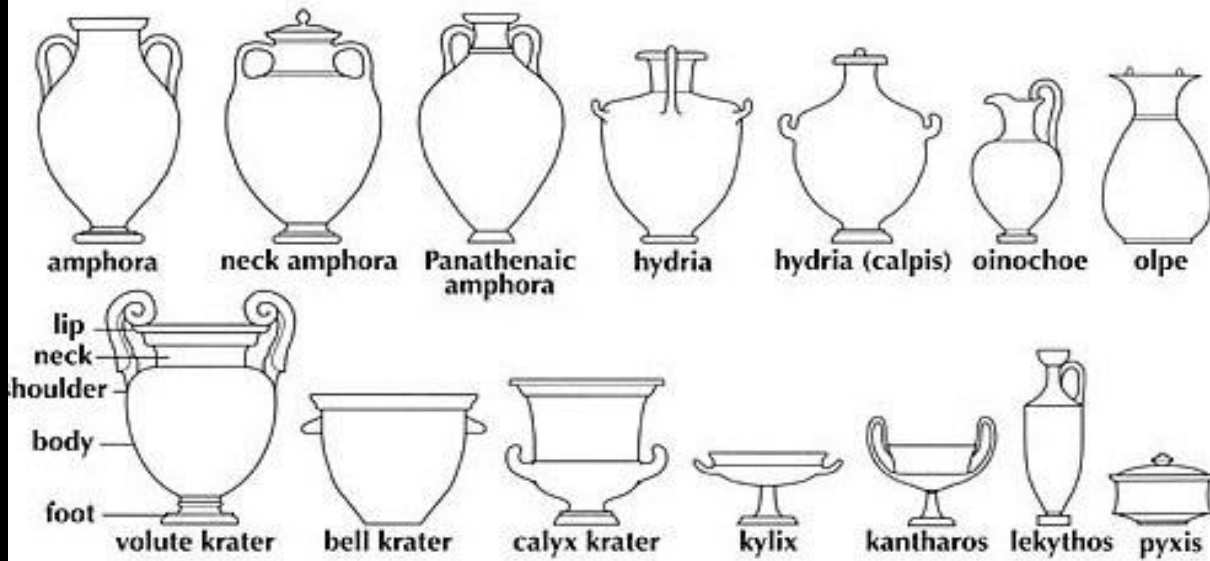
# Ancient Greek Pottery (1000-400BC)



- Due to its durability, we have a lot of pottery in the archeological record (murals and paintings are mostly lost).
- The pottery tells us a great deal about life in Ancient Greece.
- The pottery also tells us a great deal about Greek religion.
- We see the development of **naturalism** in the progression of styles.

Terracotta Kylix (drinking cup); c. 500BC  
Attributed to Douris

# Greek Vases



- Many different shapes and styles

- Various uses:

1. Utilitarian (storage, transport, diluting or drinking wine, etc.)
2. Grave markers
3. Tomb offerings
4. objets d'art
5. Domestic beautification
6. Status symbol



Large storage containers were called **amphora** and are made with two carrying handles.



**Kraters** were bowls to mix water and wine in.



Wine was ladled from kraters into shallow wine cups called **kylix**.



**Hydria** were used to carry water from wells, springs or rivers.

# Geometric Style: 900-700BC

## Features:

1. Meander pattern—a decorative border constructed from a continuous line, shaped into a repeated motif.
2. Figure style is flat, 2D: torsos are flat black triangles, heads are rounded; stylized forms (all look the same, not differentiated); painted in a dark glaze (actually a slip) over a light surface
3. Original function of amphora was to serve as a grave marker, so main scene is a prothesis, or lying-in-state of the dead.





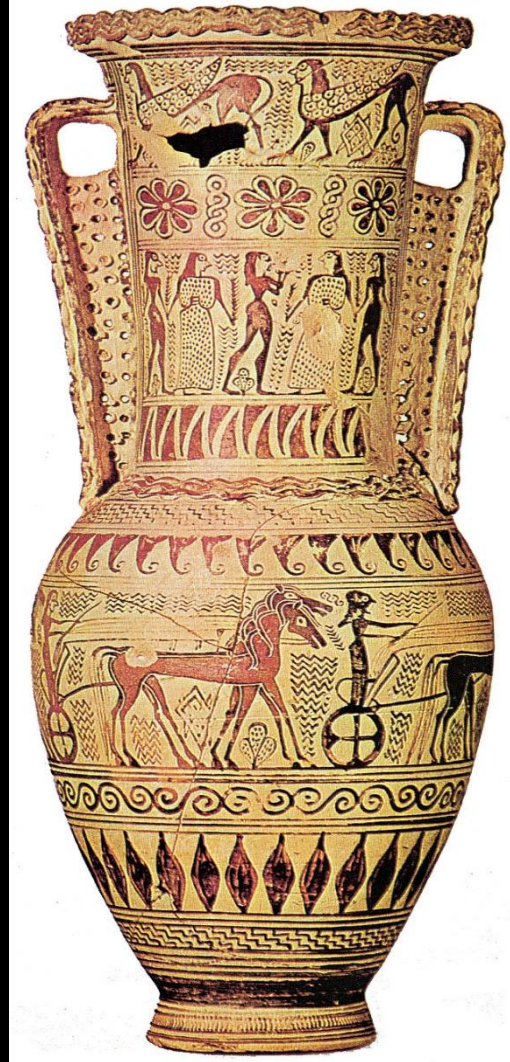


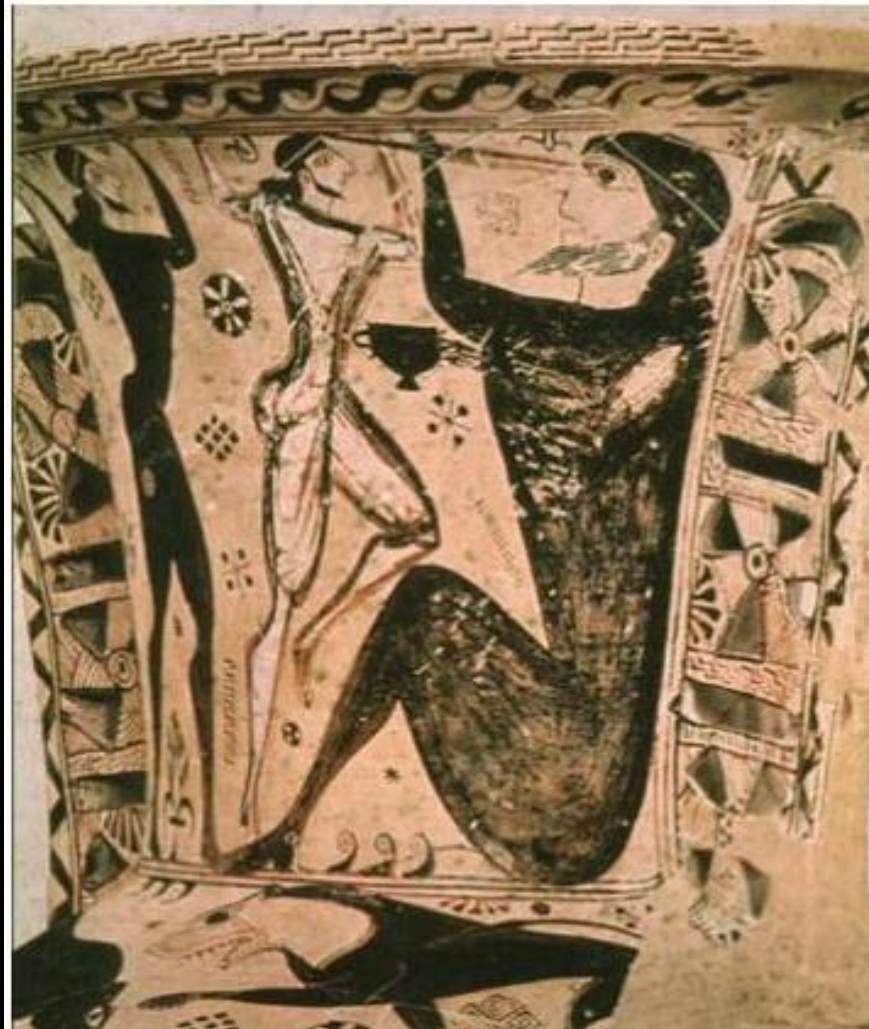
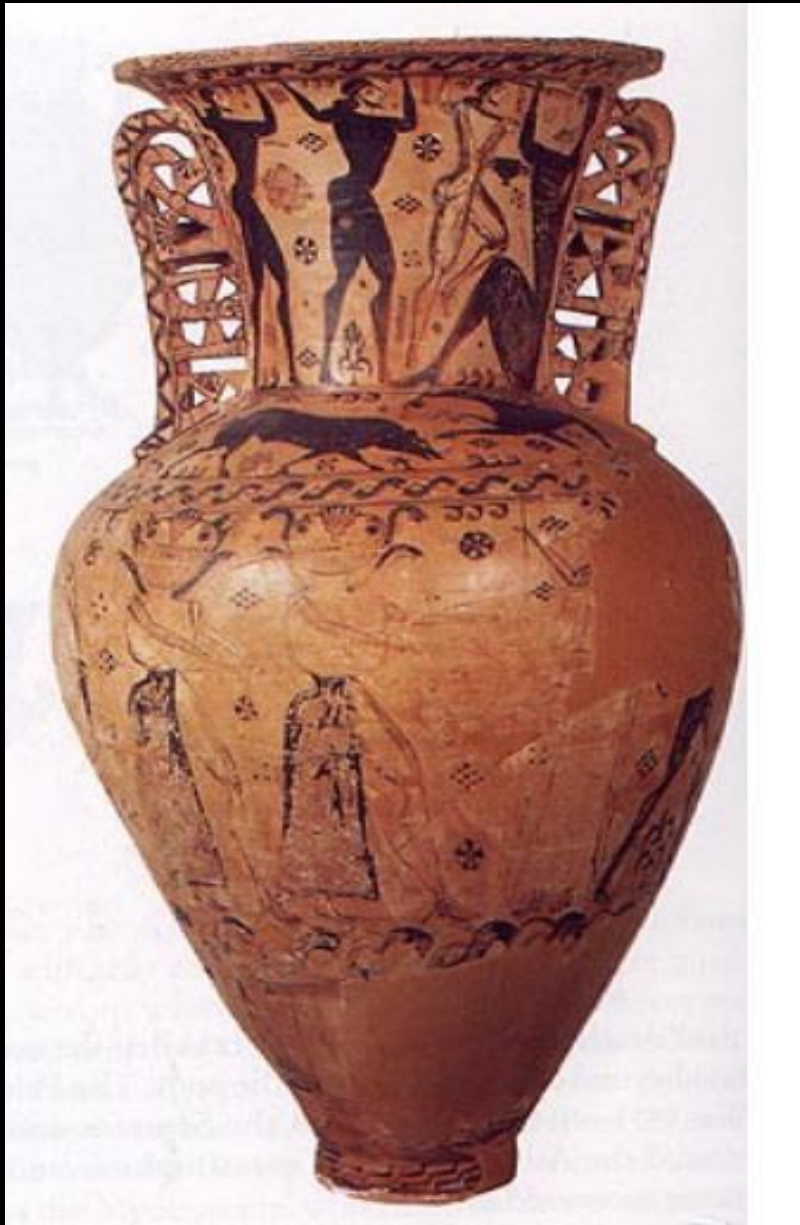


# Orientalizing Style 700-600BC

Features:

1. Shapes are larger, more curvilinear
2. Geometric patterns are now borders of the mythological representations





Polyphemos  
Painter,  
Amphora

# Archaic Style 600-480BC

## Black-figure painting style

- Figures and ornamental motifs were applied with a slip that turned black during firing; the background was left the color of the clay
- Details were added by incising (carving into) the black slip or by adding white and purple highlights with pigment mixed with clay





- This scene depicts the heroes Achilles and Ajax playing a board game (during a break from the Trojan War). Each warrior is identified with name above: Achilles on the left, Ajax on the right.
- The artist has given us clues as to who is winning (possibly a metaphor for who is winning the war). Can you spot them?



- Dionysus was the Greek god of wine (called Bacchus by the Romans); shown after an episode in which he was captured by pirates. He caused grapevines to grow all over the ship and frightened his captors until they jumped overboard and were turned into dolphins.
- Dionysus is seen here reclining in the boat on his return journey, accompanied by seven dolphins and seven bunches of grapes.
- The boat is under full sail (once entirely white) which is treated as a sail might actually look, bellying out and filling with wind.

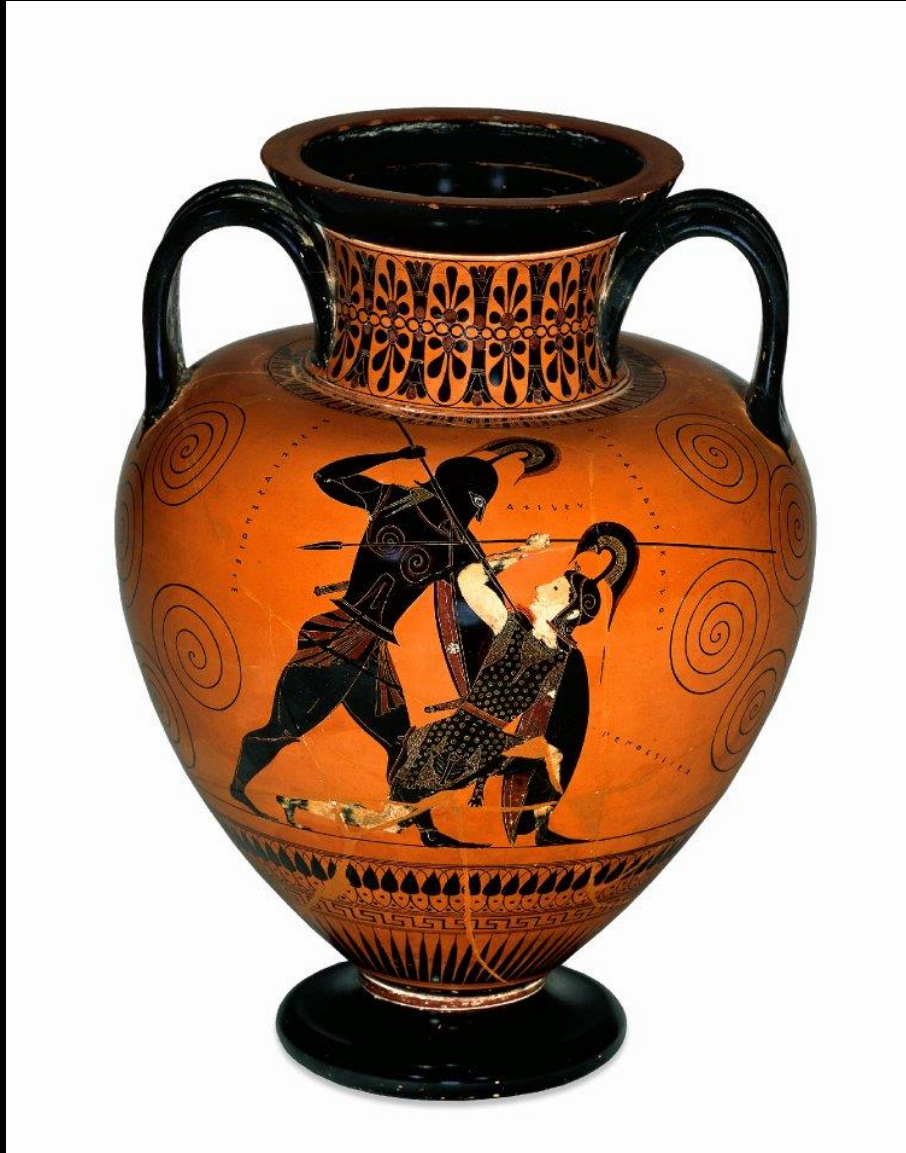
Exekias signed the vase on the front face of the foot:

“Exekias made me.”

- Greeks were 1<sup>st</sup> to sign their work; artists had social status in their culture.







- Penthesilea was an Amazon queen and warrior (Amazons were a race of warrior women).
- Although Penthesilea was a ferocious warrior, her life came to an end at the hands of Achilles. Achilles had seen her battling others, and was fascinated with her ferocity and strength. As he fought, he worked his way towards her, planning to face her as an opponent. However, he fell in love with her upon facing her—but, it was too late.
- Achilles defeated Penthesilea, catching her as she fell to the ground.

# Classical Style 480-400BC

Features:

- Red-figure painting (reverse of black-figure): allowed for more details and natural forms, because the artist could draw forms and details, rather than scrape/incise them.

Berlin Painter, bell krater showing the Abduction of Europa





- In Greek mythology, Sirens were dangerous creatures who lured sailors with their enchanting music and voices to shipwreck on the rocky coast of their island.
- This vase shows the ship of Odysseus passing the Sirens. The sea is represented by a narrow space in the foreground shaded in thinned black, and with a wavy outline of the same color.
- Odysseus was curious about the Sirens. He had all of his sailors plug their ears with beeswax and tie him to the mast. He ordered his men to leave him tied tightly to the mast, no matter how much he would beg. When he heard their beautiful song, he ordered the sailors to untie him but they bound him tighter. When they had passed out of earshot, Odysseus was released.
- Sirens were fated to die if someone heard their singing and escaped them; so after Odysseus passed by they therefore flung themselves into the water and perished; and we see that part of the story, as well.

Siren Painter,  
Odysseus and the Sirens,  
480-470BC

# Your Project

- Create a scratchboard.
- Research, summarize and sketch a Greek myth to decorate your vase.
- Incise your scratchboard to create a vase, and then decorate it using a style of the ancient Greeks. Illustrate a Greek myth and incorporate at least one Greek meander pattern.