

## Greek Vases

*This half term, we will be looking at the techniques involved in making pottery in Ancient Greece in contrast to modern day ceramics techniques. We will be developing different hand-building techniques and deciding which would be best suited to create the 3D form we have chosen before decorating it with a traditional pattern.*

### Key Questions

- What are the similarities and differences between ancient and modern pottery techniques and processes?
- Which pottery techniques can be combined to create different 3D forms?
- How can clay be effectively joined in different ways?
- How can line and shape be used to create pattern?
- What makes an effective composition when using pattern?



#### Key Vocabulary

Amphoras	a tall ancient Greek or Roman jar or jug with two handles and a narrow neck.
Line	A mark made on a surface that joins different points. It can show something's physical appearance: the outline of shapes and objects.
Pattern	Patterns can be regular or irregular. A pattern is a design in which lines shapes, forms or colours are repeated.
Shape	Shape can be geometric, regular or irregular. You can create shape using lines.
3D form	Forms have three dimensions (height, width and depth). Forms that are three dimensional such as sculptures or buildings are called real forms.
Wedging	Kneading the clay with hands to force out air pockets and create a uniform texture.
Pinch	A hand building technique which uses the fingers to gently pinch the clay into the desired form.
Coil Building	A hand building technique, using the hands to roll out and rope shaped lengths of clay. The coils are wrapped together on top of one another to form the sides of pottery.
Slip	Watered down clay which acts as a glue when joining or as a form of decoration.
Score and Slip	A pottery joining technique where the edges to be attached are roughened and 'glued' with slip.
Kiln	A furnace or oven made of ceramic used to fire or "heat" ceramic objects. A kiln may be electric, gas, or wood-burning and reach temperatures in excess of 2,500 degrees.

## Hand-Building Pottery Techniques

### Pinching

Pinching the clay between the fingers to create a simple pot shape or elements of more complicated forms.



### Coiling

Long 'coils' of varying diameter are stacked on top of each other to create a 3D form. Coils can also be used to reinforce attachments to the main structure of the pot.



### Wedging

The first stage of the process in which clay is kneaded and rolled to create a more malleable and uniform structure.



### Score and Slip

Clay is scored to create a rough texture and the 'glued' together using slip (sticky watered down clay).

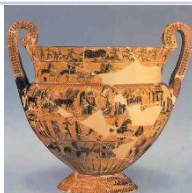


## Significant Artists (ancient and modern ceramics)

### Ergotimos and Kleitas

The role of painter and potter were often separate in Ancient Greece. Ergotimos (potter) and Kleitas (painter) formed a lasting partnership and created many works together.

Pots would have been largely constructed on a hand-turned potter's wheel using natural clay. The decoration of Greek pots varied but perhaps the most well-known is 'black figure' pottery in which scenes (often from mythology) were painted on the vases, usually using slip or other natural minerals.



### Emma Bridgewater

A British ceramics manufacturing company founded in 1985 which specialises in hand-stamped pottery drawing on techniques stretching back over 200 years.

The ceramics are made by pouring slip into pre-prepared moulds before being set, hand smoothed and fired in the kiln.

They are decorated by hand using stamps and paint before being glazed and fired for a second time.



## **Home Learning Suggestions**

- Using clay, fimo or another clay-like media, practise using and combining the different hand-building techniques and see which different 3D forms you can create.
- Research other ancient Greek artists and ceramicists, their most famous works and the techniques they used.
- Create a pattern for a Greek vase combining different elements of line and shape (perhaps incorporating themes from some Greek myths that you know).