

Information: Taught gallery session

In the Agora - Buying and Selling in Ancient Greece

ASHMOLEAN
MUSEUM OF ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Key Stage: 1 & 2

National Curriculum

Subject Area/s:

History, Science, potential for cross-curricular work

Length of session:

1 hour and 30 minutes

Maximum group size:

30 pupils

Session outline

This session explores life in an ancient Greek city and in the agora. (market place). In this interactive session pupils will discover:

- what happened at the agora, what was for sale, where goods came from and who bought them and how things were paid for?

Activity 1: Money and measurement in ancient Greece.

- Pupils will handle original coins and explore weights and measures in the ancient market place.

Activity 2: Crafts and trade in the agora and beyond.

- Pupils will look at and identify material samples and discuss what craftsmen working in the agora could make with them.
- They will handle original artefacts to discover more.
- They will search for evidence in the gallery to find objects that will tell us more about life in ancient Greece. Objects that have lasted can tell us about the goods that were made, bought and sold in the agora.

Learning Outcomes

- Understanding the use of money in trade in the ancient Greek agora and beyond.
- Understanding of different kinds of materials used by craftsmen.
- Knowledge and understanding of using archaeological evidence to learn about the past.
- Awareness of similarities and differences between life in ancient Greece and today.
- Understanding that objects can give us information about how people lived and worked.
- Improved speaking and listening skills.

“I was amazed to see the pots still in one piece”

Key Stage 2 pupil
West Kidlington
Primary School



Please see our current programme for information about dates we can offer and how to book

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Pre visit activities

- Look at the ancient Greek alphabet.
- Look at building styles in ancient Greece. What buildings might have been near to the agora?
- Look at a map and discover trade routes in the Mediterranean in ancient Greek times.
- Find out about what food and drink ancient Greek people had and how this is different from what we eat and drink today. Create a meal or menu for an ancient Greek family.

Post visit activities

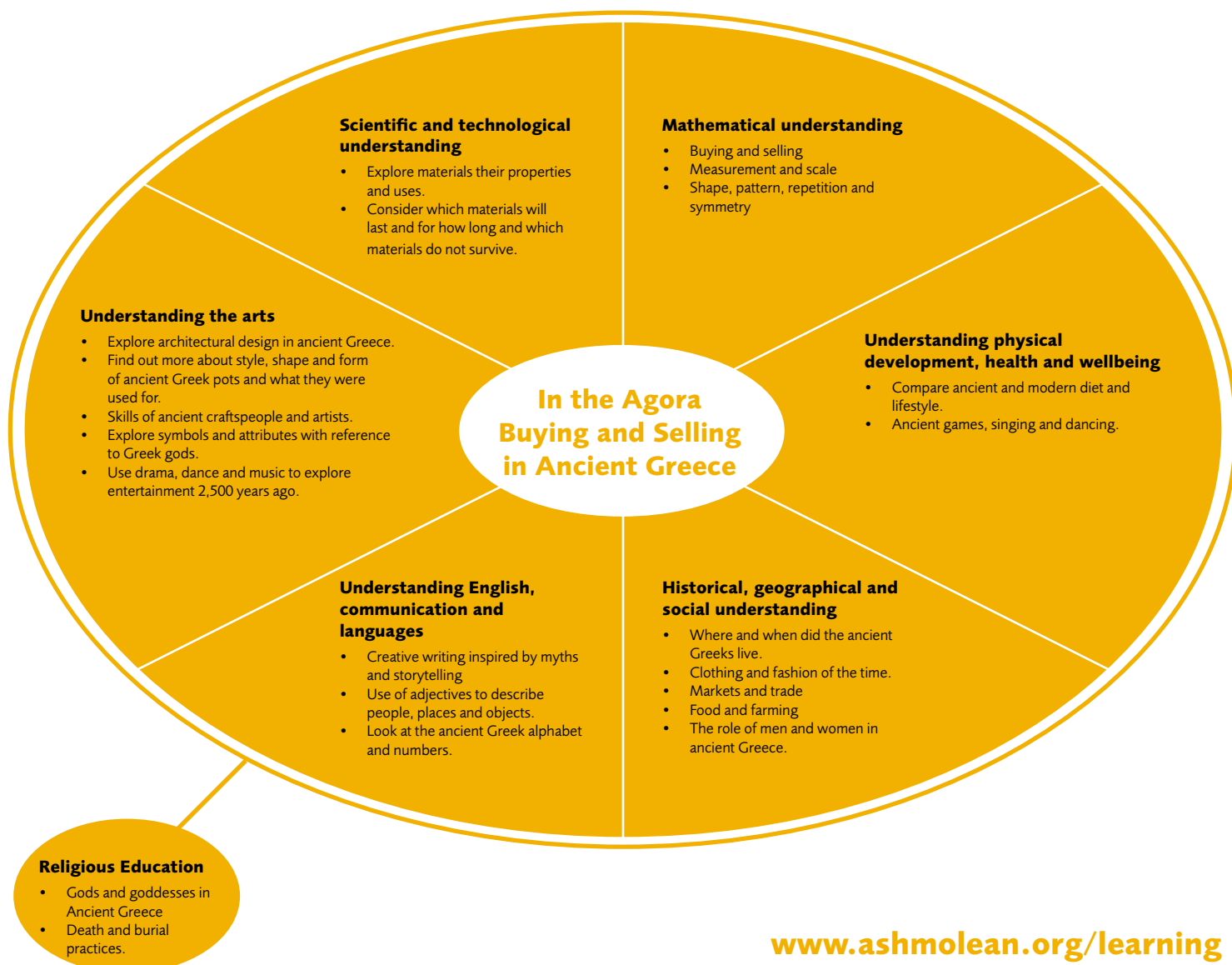
- Recreate the agora in the classroom with stalls and workshops.
- Story-time in the agora. Tales of life and work in the ancient market place.
- Design your own coin
- Discover more about the different pot shapes that were used in ancient Greece.

Resources

The following resources are available to download on our website:
www.ashmolean.org.uk/education

- Images of coins used in the session.
- Images of objects used in the session

Curriculum links





Shoemaker Vase

Athenian Black Figure Pottery
Pelike 5th century B.C



Owl Coin

Silver Tetradrachm 450–400 B.C

Head of Athena with helmet on one side,
owl with olive sprig on reverse



Gold Necklace

Sheet metal edged with beaded wire, decorated with acorns and stylised lotus.



Metrological Relief

The Measure of Man

For further information visit:
www.ashmolean.org/ash/faqs/q002