

# Majority Rules: Ancient Greek Art and Culture

## Lesson Plan

## Majority Rules: Put It in the Book

### Georgia Performance Standards:

Teachers may choose one or several Social Studies content standards as the focus of the reporting.

SS3H1: The student will explain the political roots of our modern democracy in the United States of America.

- Identify the influence of Greek architecture, law, and the Olympic Games.
- Explain the ancient Athenians' idea that a community should choose its own leaders.

SS3CG2: The student will describe how the historical figures display positive character traits of cooperation, diligence, liberty, justice, tolerance, freedom of conscience and expression, and respect for and acceptance of authority.

**ELA2LSV1** The student uses oral and visual strategies to communicate. The student:

- Recalls, interprets, and summarizes information presented orally.
- Listens to and views a variety of media to acquire information.

**Objective** Students will create a book format in the shape of a Greek vase or the Parthenon's façade. Decoration and illustration should be inspired by Greek artifacts: architecture, vessel forms, geometric patterns, or images of the gods and their attributes. Student engagement and individual investment is heightened by using art as the point of entry to core curriculum.

**Goal** Students will demonstrate knowledge of the Social Studies Standards content through original book's imagery and text.

**Materials** 12" x 18" oak tag, poster board, heavy drawing paper, or student grade watercolor paper

Paper for preliminary drawing (use whatever you have on hand)

Pencils, markers, colored pencils, watercolors, or colored construction papers for collage

Ruler

Glue

Scissors

Reference books with illustrations of the Parthenon and Greek vase forms.

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After touring the Carlos Museum's Greek and Roman collection, students will begin their classroom project by quickly sketching a vase form or the Parthenon façade. Demonstrate how to fold the paper for the book format (see diagram **A**). Demonstrate how to cut for rooftop or vase's symmetrical shape making sure to leave enough uncut fold-hinge to support the book's structure (see diagram **B**).

As a class, look at the Greek figure drawings and the stories they tell. See the *Gods, Goddesses and Heroes* section of *Odyssey On Line* ([www.carlos.emory.edu](http://www.carlos.emory.edu)) or the Carlos Museum's *Family Guide to the Classical Collections*. Review Heracles and his labors, Aktaion and Artemis, or Odysseus and Polyphemus (the Cyclops). Or review images of the gods and their attributes: Athena and her shield, Poseidon and the trident, and Artemis, goddess of the hunt with her bow. Students may use gods, daily life scenes, or

images of the Olympics to decorate the outside of the vessel-book. If they have chosen a temple-book, they can illustrate the column orders and decorate the pediment with a scene. Keep it simple. Use red and black or black and white pencils or markers. Students may use a fine tip marker to outline their contour drawings. Watercolor washes may be added as Greek architecture would have been brightly colored. Keep in mind that watercolor paper as the support material works best in this case.

Teacher will assign the inside content. It can review the tour, outline a mythological story, compare everyday objects from ancient Greece with objects found in the home today, name sections of the temple, report on Olympic events, or be used throughout the semester to include the founding of the U.S. and branches of government.

This format can be altered to suit most curriculum content.

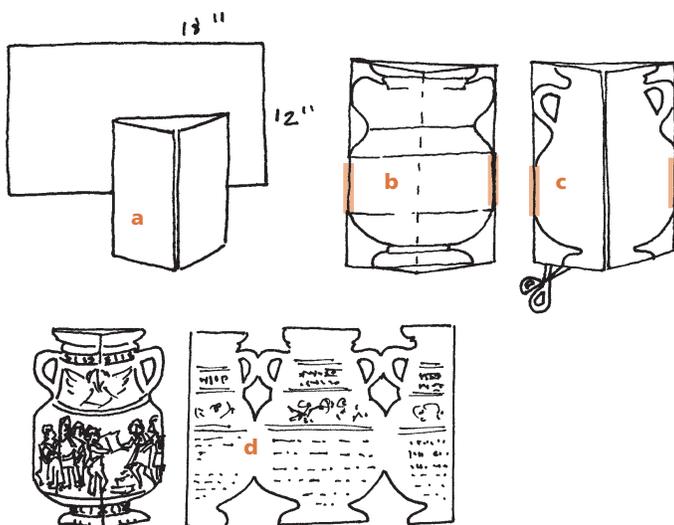
### A. Paper Vessel Book

Fold in the 18-inch paper so that the two ends meet in the center, forming a gatefold (**a**).

Draw vessel outline, making certain to leave some fold as book hinge (orange areas). Keep your vessel symmetrical on right and left panels (**b**).

Then cut the vessel outline. Don't cut the orange hinges (**c**)!

Draw, paint, or collage democracy Olympic story inspired by Greek vessels. Teacher will assign inside content such as a time line (**d**).



### B. Greek-Inspired Architecture Book

Fold in the 18-inch paper so that the two ends meet in the center, forming a gatefold (**a**).

Cut to create roof line (**b**).

Draw, paint, or collage columns, pediment relief sculpture, and Doric/Ionic columns (**c**).

Teacher will assign inside content such as federal, state, and local government branches (**d**).

