

Simply Charlotte Mason presents

The Stuff They Left Behind

Understanding History through Artifacts and Architecture

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From the Days of
Ancient Greece



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From the Days of Ancient Greece

Use these beautiful photographs of artifacts and architecture either *before* you read from a living history book, to create interest in a time period, or *after* you read, to clarify and elaborate on what was read. The leading thoughts and discussion questions below will give you some ideas, but be careful to allow plenty of time for careful looking and encourage students to share their own observations and make their own personal connections.

Hittite Bas Relief Sculpture

Ankara's Museum of Anatolian Civilizations

Photo Credit: Koppas



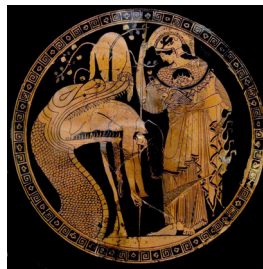
As Joshua stood by the Jordan River and gazed across its waters at the land on the other side, God told him that He was giving to the Israelites all the territory where the Hittites now lived (Joshua 1:4). This sculpture is from that time period and pictures the Hittites in everyday life. What can you learn about the Hittites and the land in which they lived from this sculpture?

This type of sculpture is called a "bas relief" (pronounced *bah ree-leaf*), which means "low relief." It is called that because the figures and design are just barely raised above the flat background. How hard do you think it would be to sculpt in this way?

Jason and the Snake Cup

Vatican Museum

Photo Credit: Shii



The ancient Greeks loved to decorate their cups and plates and jars with pictures. This cup has a painting of Jason's encounter with a snake who is guarding the Golden Fleece (center, hanging on the tree). Athena is the woman standing to the right. How does this illustration compare with the version of Jason and the Golden Fleece that you have read? The longer a story has been around, the easier it is for changes to be added.

The painting on this cup is known as a red-figure painting, referring to the red color of the figures painted on a black background. It was a very popular style in ancient Greece. What do you notice about the painting style?

Traditional Enemies Inlays

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Photo Credit: Captmondo



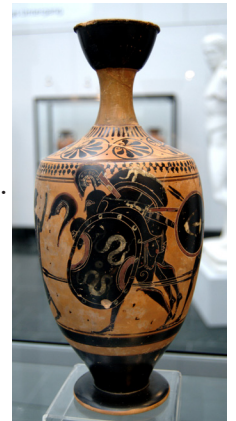
Imagine creating these figures out of glass and fine pottery! Now you see why some parts have broken. These figures picture the people groups who lived in the areas around Egypt and Israel. From left to right, the figures represent two Nubians, a Philistine, an Amorite, a Syrian, and a Hittite. What do you notice about these people groups who lived near Israel?

These groups were considered the enemies of Egypt, Israel, and indeed, each other. Yet these figures were found at a royal palace used in Ancient Egypt during the reign of Ramses II. Why do you suppose they used figures of common enemies as part of the decoration of the palace?

Ajax and Achilles Jar

State Collections of Antiques, Munich

Photo Credit: Bibi Saint-Pol



If you have read the story of the Trojan War, you know about Achilles. This ancient Greek pottery jar illustrates Ajax carrying the body of Achilles from the battlefield. Do you notice anything about ancient Greek weapons or soldiering from this depiction? Is there anything else you notice about the jar?

This style of pottery painting is different from the one of Jason and the Snake. The black-figure style of painting came hundreds of years before red-figure in ancient Greece. Do you like the red-figure or black-figure pottery best?







