

Art

Ancient Greece is world-renowned for its fabulous art. Most of this is in the form of pottery, statues, sculptures, coins and buildings. This doesn't mean that the Ancient Greeks didn't paint paintings or build ornate wooden structures, but those materials are perishable and very few have survived.

One of the most famous Greek buildings is the Parthenon. This was a temple built in Athens to honour the goddess of the city, Athena. It was built around 450 BCE. A man named Pericles was in charge of the Athenian army at the time and wanted to keep himself in power. He did this by spending lots of money on new public buildings and fabulous pieces of art.

Greek architects were some of the first to consider what a building would look like and to use mathematics to make them beautiful. They used slightly curved horizontal lines and pillars that were fatter in the middle than at the end to make the buildings look perfect when complete. Greek sculptors studied the human body and worked with accurate proportions to make their statues look lifelike.

Vocabulary

Which phrase means that people all over the world appreciate Ancient Greek art?

What impression do you get of something from the word "ornate"?

Retrieve

When was the Parthenon built?

Infer

What evidence is there that Pericles thought he could bribe the Athenians into liking him?

Summarise

How did Greek sculptors make their statues more lifelike?

Why do very few Greek paintings exist today?