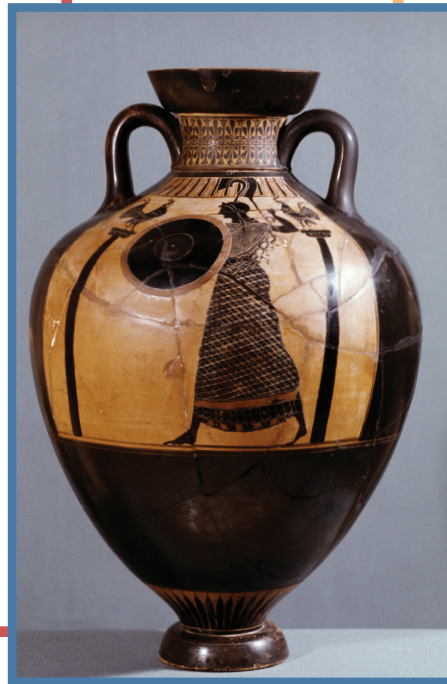


Greek Pottery

The ancient Greeks were excellent pot-makers. Clay was easy to find, and when it was fired in a kiln, or hot oven, it became very strong. They decorated pottery with scenes from stories as well as everyday life. Historians have been able to learn a great deal about what life was like in ancient Greece by studying the scenes painted on these vessels.



Greek pottery comes in many different shapes and sizes. This is because the vessels were used for different purposes; some were used for transportation and storage, some were for mixing, eating, or drinking. Below are some of the most common shapes. See if you can find examples of each of them in the gallery.

Greek, Attic, in the manner of the Berlin Painter. *Panathenaic amphora*, ca. 500–490 B.C. Ceramic. Bequest of Mrs. Allan Marquand (y1950-10). Photo: Bruce M. White



Amphora

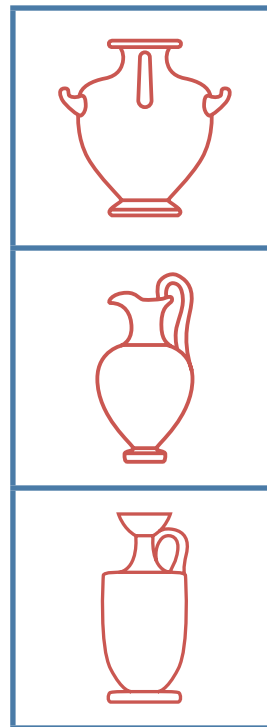
The amphora was a large, two-handled, oval-shaped vase with a narrow neck. It was used for storage and transport.

Krater

The word krater means "mixing bowl." This large, two-handled vase with a broad body and wide mouth was used for mixing wine with water.

Kylix

The kylix was a drinking cup with a broad, relatively shallow body. It had two horizontal handles.



Hydria

The name of this three-handled vase comes from the Greek word for water. Hydriai were used for drawing water and also as urns to hold the ashes of the dead.

Oinochoe

The Oinochoe was a small pitcher used for pouring wine from a krater into a drinking cup. The word oinochoe means "wine-pourer."

Lekythos

This narrow-necked vase with one handle usually held olive oil or perfume. It was also used in funerals.