

## Ancient and Pre-historic (Pre-Classical) Art Expedition Notes

3rd grade and up

This month we are searching for artifacts and art from pre-classical civilizations. We will be hunting for Egyptian, Mycenaean, African and Ancient American pieces. As you walk through the galleries ask yourself these questions:

1. What kinds of materials does each geographic area use?
2. Why do you think they chose the materials they did?
3. Are there similarities between geographic areas?
4. Were the pieces in the museum's collection mostly decorative, mostly useful or some of both?
5. What kinds of things did ancient people picture in their art?
6. Why do you think they pictured those things?
7. Notice the amount of detail in the pictures and carvings. In general are there lots of details or just a few? Are lines and designs made with fine lines or broad strokes? Why do you think this is?
8. Look at the colors that are used. What are the most common colors? Why do you think ancient peoples chose these colors? (answers will vary depending on the geographic area)
9. Which items do you think were the easiest to make? Which were the hardest? How would this effect their value?
10. If something was more expensive do you think it would be more or less likely to end up in a modern museum?
11. Which pieces that you saw do you think were owned by rich people? Which pieces were probably owned by poor people?
12. Many of the pieces that we see from the ancient world, were found in graves such as the pyramids. What does this tell us about what people believed about death?

You can write the answers to these questions, jot down notes or just be prepared to discuss them once we have been through the galleries.

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# Ancient and Pre-historic (Pre-Classical) Art Expedition Notes

<sup>2</sup>Preschool-3rd Grade

We don't know when people began to paint and make other decorative objects, but archeologists (people who search for objects from the past and study them) have found many pieces of art that are thousands of years old. Some of these are painting deep inside caves while others are decorated pots, pitchers and other things that people used every day. Some things were just to look at, some were made to be buried with people who had died. Many times artists made representations (pictures, carvings, or sculptures) of things that they saw everyday.

As we walk around the museum see if you can find answers to these questions.

1. How many kinds of animals can you find? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What are they? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How many things can you find that someone would only look at and not use? What are they?

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4. What kinds of things can you find that someone would use?

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5. Draw something that looks useful:

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6. Pick a piece of art, look at it carefully then try to draw it.



7. Do you notice that many of the decorations on pieces are made of shapes and patterns?  
Draw your own shape or set of shapes in a pattern.