

ANCIENT GREEK POTTERY MAKING



WHAT IS POTTERY?

Ancient Greek pottery was made from clay. It was used to store food and drink, carry water, mix wine and make offerings to the gods.

Greek pottery was also decorated with beautiful patterns and pictures that told stories from everyday life and myths.

HOW POTTERY WAS MADE



1 PREPARE THE CLAY

Clay was mixed with water and kneaded to remove lumps and air.



2 SHAPE THE POT

The potter used a wheel to shape the clay into pots, bowls and vases.



3 ATTACH THE HANDLES

Handles were added while the clay was still soft but firm (leather-hard).



4 DRY THE POT

The pot was left to dry slowly in the shade until it was firm.



5 ADD DESIGNS

Potters painted designs using slips and fine brushes. Many designs showed people, animals and scenes from myths.



6 FIRE IN A KILN

The pots were placed in a kiln and fired at a very high temperature to make them strong and hard.



DID YOU KNOW?

Greek pottery helps us learn about life in Ancient Greece. The shapes, designs and scenes painted on pottery show us what people wore, how they lived, and the stories they loved.



A BIT OF HISTORY

Ancient Greeks had been making pottery for thousands of years. Around 700 BC, a new style called black-figure pottery became popular. Different shapes of Greek pots had different jobs. Amphorae stored oil and wine, kraters mixed wine and water, and kylixes were used for drinking. Cities like Athens and Corinth were famous for their pottery, and skilled potters often signed their finest work.

