

Title of the Teaching Unit

Classical art

Level

CEFR:

B1/B2

Pre-requisites

The students are familiar with:

·the basic structures and verb tenses of the English language

· some specific lexis related to Art introduced and revised throughout the year

· approaching the analysis of a painting/work of art on the basis of the historical background, the main features of the artistic period and the main techniques adopted by the artist.

· various exercise typologies such as fill in the gaps, scrambled texts, matching, clozes, reading and listening comprehensions, videos, etc..

· collaborative tasks such as group and pair work

Objectives

Intended knowledge and competence outcomes:

- be aware of the connection between the language used and the content in the target subject, that is Art
- interpret visual elements
- be able to recognise the main features of the classical Greek period, and adopt the proper art vocabulary to describe ancient sculptures and architecture.

Teaching Approach

Communicative. The students will be engaged in different kinds of activities specifically meant to encourage their participation and use of the target language in the classroom.

Teaching Aids

IWB, blackboard, copies made from books, images and videos taken from the Internet in order to match the students' different learning styles.

Class dynamics

Individual, pair and group - work, dialogic teacher to student interaction.

Grade, type of school and course

3rd of a secondary school specializing in foreign language

Interdisciplinary links

Art, English, History.

Target class

24 students aged 16
Mixed ability class with no special needs students

Duration

4 hours

The Acropolis of Athens





Artworks

Amphora = anfora

Cup = coppa

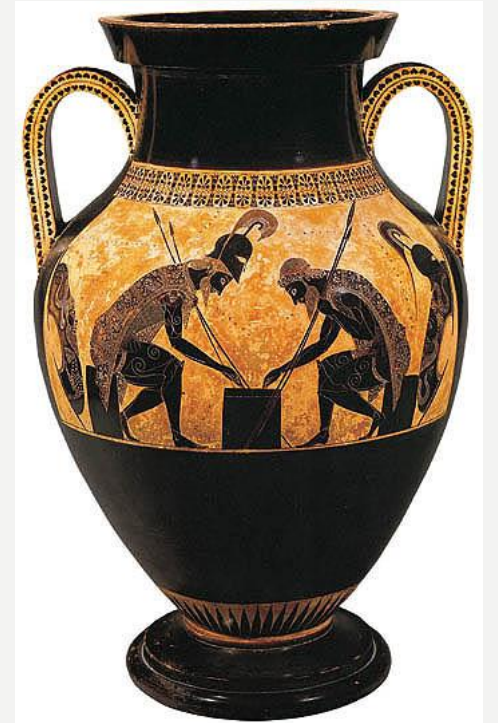
Funerary monument = monumento funebre

Krater = cratere

Vessel = vasellame

Shiny = lucid

Stele = stele



Architecture

Capital	=	capitello
Caryatid	=	cariatide
Cella	=	cella
Column	=	colonna
Corinthian	=	corinzio
Doric	=	dorico
Entasis	=	entasi
Frieze	=	fregio
Ionic	=	ionico
Architrave	=	architrave
Metope	=	metopa
Order	=	ordine
Pediment	=	frontone
Plinth	=	plinto
Shaft	=	fusto
Temple	=	tempio
Triglyph	=	triglifo
Volute	=	voluta



Technique and Materials

Bronze = bronzo

Brush = pennello

Clay = argilla

Gold = oro

Ivory = avorio

Marble = marmo

To sculpt = scolpire

To carve = incidere

Style and Composition

Depth = profondità

Hue = tinta

Linear = lineare

Front view = veduta frontale

Profile view = veduta di profilo



GLOSSARY

To display = mostrare

To emphasize = enfatizzare

To highlight = far risaltare

Undulating = ondulato

Figures Calm = quieto

Colossal = gigantesco

Dignified = nobile

Dramatic = drammatico

Flat = piatto

Foreshortened = scorciato

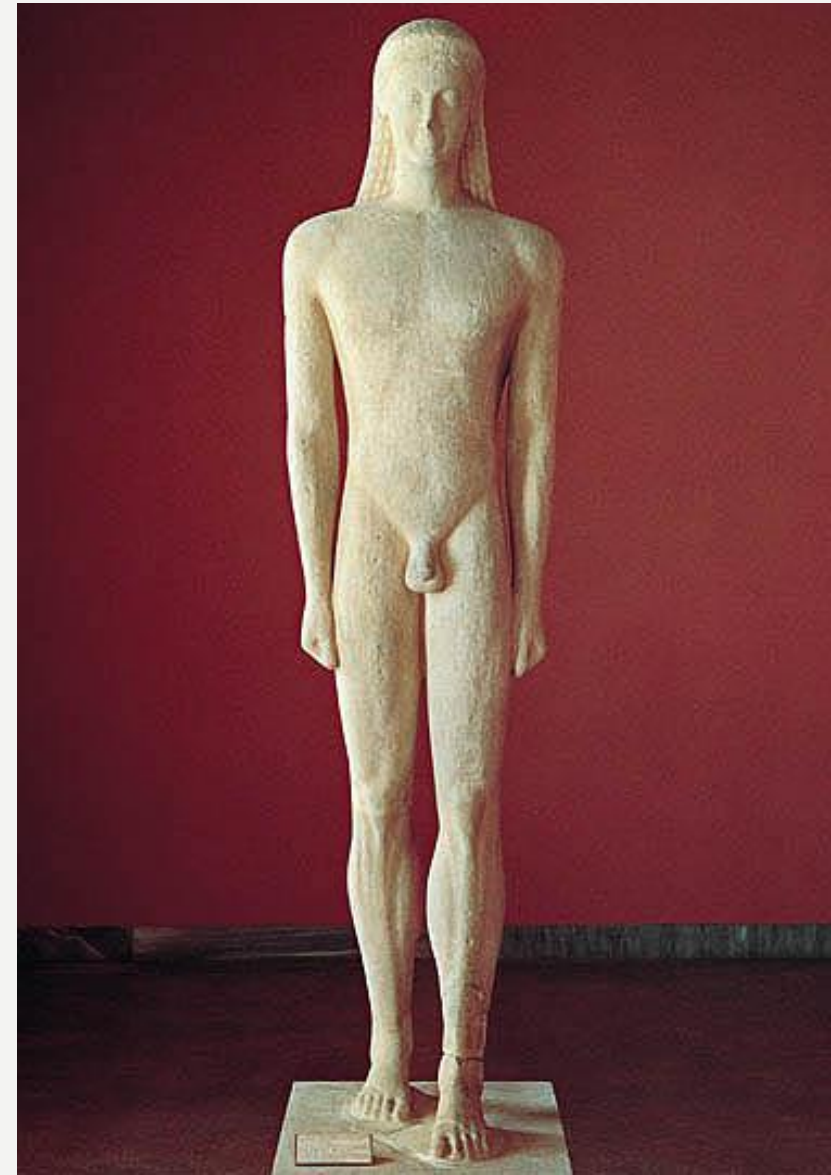
Fragmentary = frammentario

Massive = imponente

Nude = nudo

Overlapping = chesi sovrappone

Two-dimensional = bidimensionale



**Write the key words
listened in the video:**

- 1-the ancientthe modern capital of
- 2-it containsof Greece
- 3-The Acropolis was built
- 4- It was a time for
- 5- The Erechthelon a temple used
- 6-The Propylaea , theto the Acropolis
- 7- the Acropoliswhich for the ancient Greeks was not only
but the
- 8-It was built in the years
- 9- In the front and in the back
- 10- On each side
- 11- Throughout the centuries
- 12- Ina siege by theresult in an
- Because theare using the Parthenon as a
- 13- Then the notoriousof Lord Elgin result in the most part of the Parthenonand
- 14- Oversleft can be seen
- 15- The Acropolis is openandis

PAIR WORK: Translate the text into Italian and find synonyms of the words in bold.

Phidias at the British Museum

Since 1801 several fragments of the Parthenon frieze were **brought** by Lord Elgin to the British Museum in London where they are still **preserved**. The Athenians considered it their most representative building and therefore wanted the most **prominent** artist of the age of Pericles to decorate it. A special role was assigned to both the east and west sides of the temple, where a series of figures larger than life were protagonists of symbolic episodes in the history of Athens.

A continuous frieze also decorated, of course, the cella which **contained** the goddess' statue. Many of these decorations are now lost forever.

Among the parts that can still be **admired** at the British Museum is the group of figures known as Three goddesses, originally located on the east pediment. Although all of them are headless, they still **retain** a strong vitality because of the amazing drapery **emphasizing** their bodies and **underlining** each gesture. What makes this drapery outstanding is that it is no longer stylised but falls in natural folds so as **to convey** the idea of movement and direct the viewer's eye to the entral event **depicting** the birth of Athena.

Read the text and then complete the exercise in the next page:

A metope is an architectural element on a Doric temple. Metopes are usually rectangular in shape, sculpted in high relief and they were also painted. A metope alternates with a triglyph (a rectangular block with three flutes sculpted on it) on the frieze of a Doric temple. The British Museum has 92 metopes from the Parthenon. Look at this famous metope from the Parthenon sculptures. It is an elaborate rendition of the battle between the Lapiths and Centaurs. The myth tells of Lapiths who were celebrating a wedding and had invited the Centaurs, who were their cousins. The Centaurs were not used to wine and in the myth they drank too much and became drunk. The wild nature of the Centaurs caused them to try to rape the bride and every woman at the feast. The Lapiths defended their women and a battle ensued. This metope still has traces of the original paint.



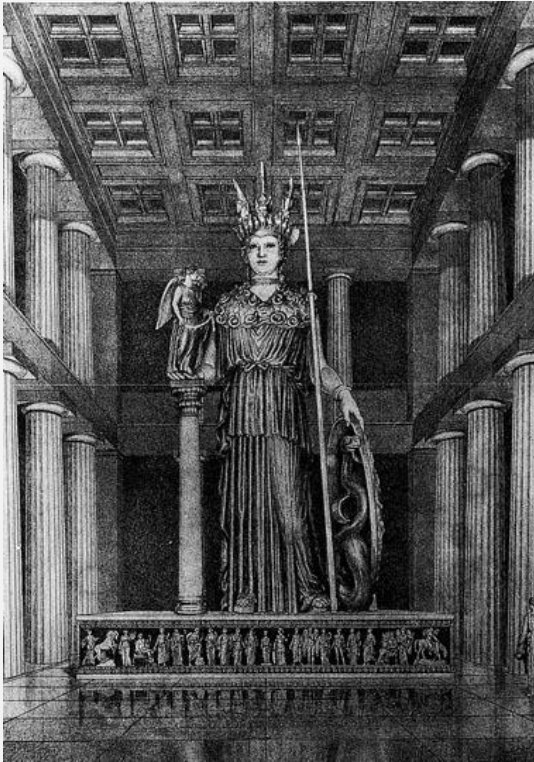
PAIR WORK:

Describe it using the information and the lexicon given.

- ...shows ... and is part of
- It dates back to ...
- The two figures ...
- The ... appears to ...
- At the same time ...
- The scene is framed ...
- The ... is shown in ...

Read the text and then complete the exercise in the next page:

Athena Parthenos



This statue features among the numerous small-scale copies of the colossal gold and ivory original by Phidias, that was once located inside a temple especially devoted to the goddess, the Parthenon on the Acropolis of Athens.

She originally held a statue of the Nike, or victory, in one hand and a spear in the other.

A shield lay at her feet and a snake coiled near the spear. Her chest was decorated with the image of the serpent-haired head of Medusa, that Perseus bestowed on her after she helped him behead the monster.

The goddess is wearing a long peplos and the ends of her belt meet to form two entwining snakes.

Match the verbs to their Italian equivalent.

1. To feature
2. Located
3. Devoted
4. To hold
5. To lay
6. To behead
7. To bestow

- a. Offrire
- b. Giacere
- c. Sorreggere
- d. Collocato
- e. Rientrare
- f. Decapitare
- g. Dedicato

Track 21

Listen to this description of a statue on display at the British Museum and choose the right answer.

1. The statue comes from

- a. the Parthenon
- b. the Erechtheion
- c. the Athena Nike temple

2. **It was meant to:**

- a. decorate the interior
- b. support the roof
- c. decorate the exterior

3. **Behind such figures stands the**

- a. fascination with the human body
- b. importance given to the female figure
- c. desire to attract people to the temple

4. **This temple was built**

- a. in the first quarter of the 5th century BC
- b. around the middle of the 5th century BC
- c. in the last quarter of the 5th century BC



5. She is probably a generic representation of

a. the typical Greek servant

b. aristocratic maidens serving in the cult of Athena

c. a priestess



Pair work.

Find out where the surviving sculptures from the Parthenon can be seen.

You will find some useful information by visiting:

http://www.britishmuseum.org/about_us/news_and_press/statements/parthenon_sculptures.aspx

Open Discussion Pair work.

The question of where the surviving sculptures of the Parthenon should be displayed has long been a subject of controversy. Since the early 1980's Greek governments have requested the permanent removal to Athens of all the Parthenon sculptures in the British Museum. The British Museum argued, among other reasons, that it has saved the marbles from certain damage and deterioration.

Answer the following questions using the lexicon given.

I think that ...

It has to be noted that ...

At the same time ...

However,

To conclude with ...

What do you do with