

Unit I: Greek Art: Early Classical Antiquity

In this unit, we will study Greek art from 900 B.C. to the early 600s B.C. During this period, the area experienced an economic revival after what is sometimes referred to as the “Dark Age” of Greece. Along with enjoying renewed trade with other regions, Greece held its first Olympic Games and rich traditions in literature and the arts began to develop.

The period spanning from around 900 to 700 B.C. is known as the “geometric period” in art because of the predominance of geometric shapes in the forms and designs of sculpture and pottery painting. During the Archaic Period (from the 7th century B.C. to the early 5th century B.C.), Greece increased its trading activities with Eastern areas. As a result, Eastern influences became characteristic of the period’s art, as did an emphasis on the human figure. Archaic architecture is distinguished by its novel architectural “grammar,” or its unique combination of structural elements and ornamentation.

Unit I Time Advisory

This unit will take approximately 21 hours to complete.

- Subunit I.1: 5 hours
 - Smarthistory.org Reading: 0.5 hour
 - Utah State University Reading: 0.5 hour
 - Open University Reading: 4 hours
- Subunit I.2: 5 hours
 - Subunit I.2.1: 2 hours
 - Subunit I.2.2: 1 hour

- Subunit 1.2.3: 2 hours

- Subunit 1.3: 2 hours

- Subunit 1.4: 2 hours

- Subunit 1.5: 2 hours

- Subunit 1.6: 5 hours
 - Subunit 1.6.1: 1 hour
 - Subunit 1.6.2: 1 hour
 - Subunit 1.6.3: 1 hour
 - Subunit 1.6.4: 1 hour
 - Subunit 1.6.5: 1 hour

Unit 1 Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:

- Explain why ancient Greek and Roman art can be studied together as the art of “Classical Antiquity.”
- Trace the general timeline of ancient Greece and Rome.
- Link the timeline of the Classical world to specific geography.
- Identify important figures of Classical mythology.
- Trace the general timeline of the Geometric and Archaic periods of Ancient Greece.
- Explain how important historical developments and social-historical contexts had an impact on art’s evolution during the Geometric period in Greece.

- Identify the important stylistic and technical developments of the Geometric and Archaic periods of ancient Greek art.
- Recognize and discuss important artworks from the Geometric and Archaic periods of ancient Greek art.