



The Trojan War, *The Adventures of Odysseus*, and ancient Greek Pottery

Pottery Project

Archaic black figure *neck amphora*,
c. 530 BC in MET, New York

Ancient Greek Pottery

- Much of what we know about ancient Greek customs & legends comes from illustrations found on everyday household items of the ancient Greek world: **clay pots used for storing food and liquid.**
- The shape of ancient Greek pottery was related to its use and function, both in everyday life and ceremonial events.
- Ceremonial pots were decorated with painted scenes from myths, history, and everyday life, and were made for the wealthy or for public events.



Archaic black figure *Panathenaic amphora*, c. 530 BC, depicting a Greek foot race on one side, Athena on the other, with palmettes & geometric design, in MET New York

Ancient Greek Pottery

- For example, the huge **Panathenaic**, or "all Athens," *amphorae* was filled with nearly 12 gallons of oil from the sacred olive trees of Athens and was awarded to each event winner in the Panathenaic games, a major competition held every four years.
- The *Burgon* amphora depicts *Athena Promachos*, the goddess of war, brandishing a spear and wearing the *aegis* (Zeus' breastplate), and on the back is an image of the event for which it was an award.



Burgon amphora ca. 565 BCE, BM, London

Ancient Greek Pottery Shapes

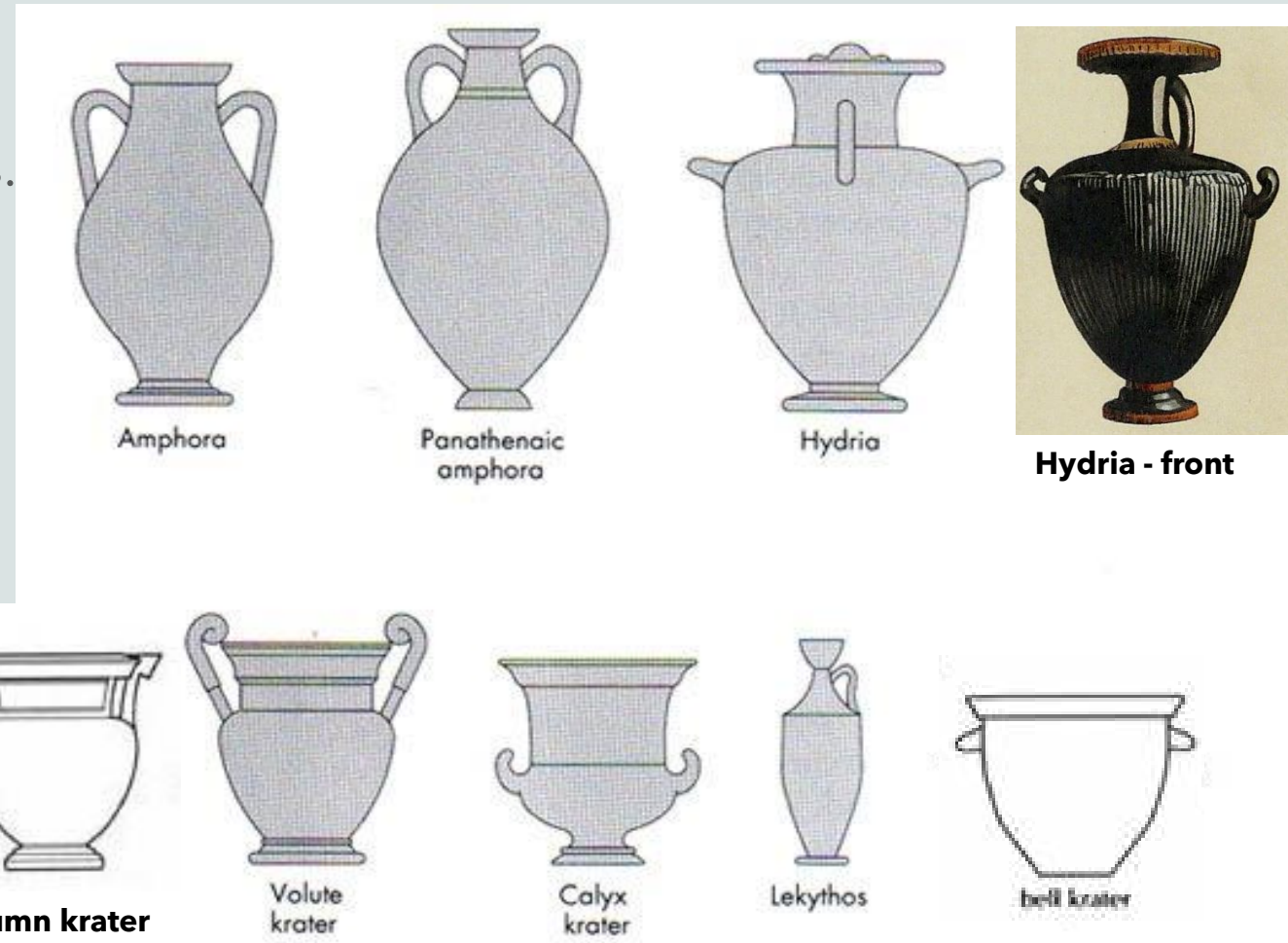
- The shape of Greek pottery was related to its function: very tall pots were made to store grain, water, and other basic supplies.
- Some common pottery shapes, or types, include:

Amphora: used to store a variety of liquids & food

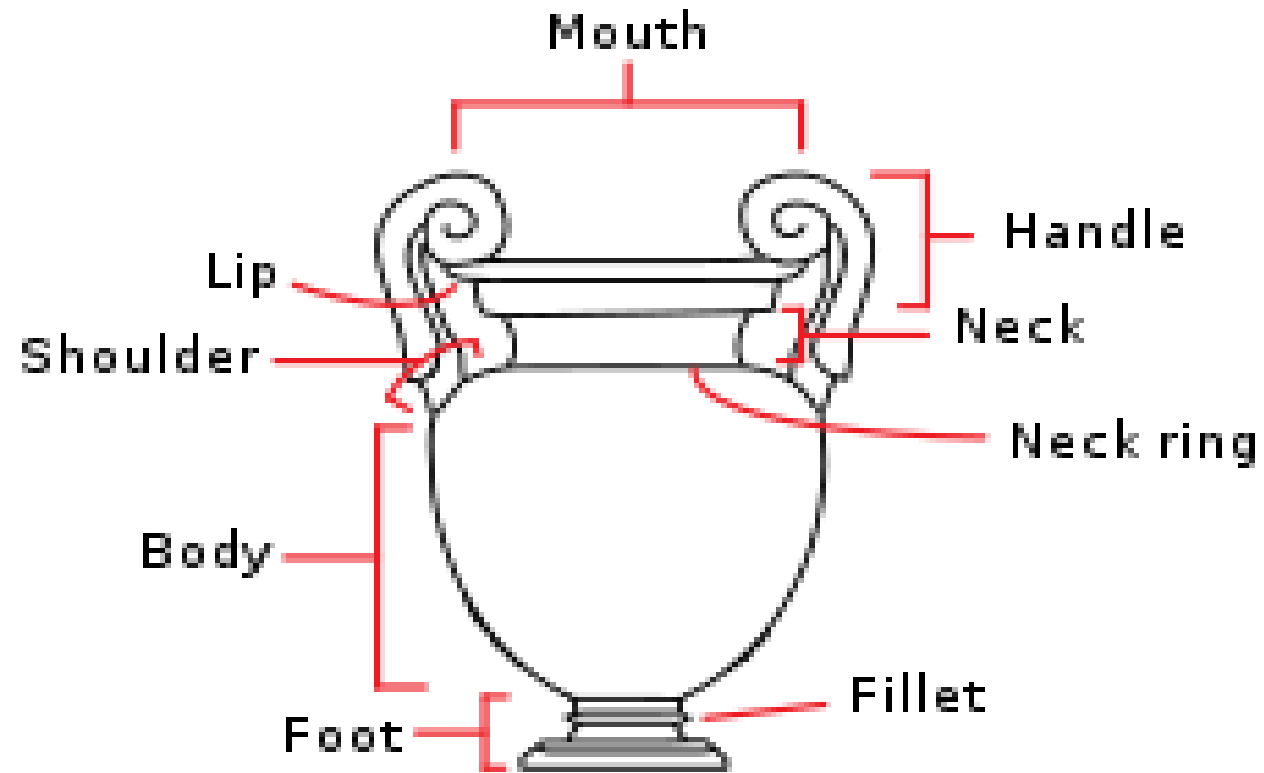
Hydria: used for water

Krater: used to mix wine & water at mealtimes & celebrations

Lekythos: used to store oil



Parts of a Typical Athenian Vase—Shown on a Volute Krater



Greek Kraters

- Krater, from the Greek word *kratēr*, literally means “mixing vessel” and was produced in four shapes: *column, calyx, volute, and bell kraters*.
- As drinking *undiluted* wine was considered a severe *faux pas*, ancient writers prescribed that a mixing ratio of 1:3 (wine to water) was optimal for long conversation and recommended a mixing ratio of 1:2 for an evening of fun & entertainment.



Vix volute krater, c. 500 BC, in bronze in MPC, France; stands 5'4" and held over 290 gallons of diluted wine

Greek Krater Styles

COLUMN



originated in Corinth (7th century BC); typically black figure; classical red figure *column krater*, c. 460 BC in MET, New York

CALYX



lower body shaped like the calyx of a flower with two upturned handles, stepped foot; almost always seen in red figure; *Sarpedon calyx krater*, c. 515 BC in NMC Cerveteri, Italy

Greek Krater Styles

VOLUTE



Shape similar to the column krater but with *volute*-shaped handles—invented in Laconia in early 6th century BC; classical red figure *volute krater*, c. 450 BC in MET New York

BELL



Looks like an inverted bell; always red-figure; classical red figure *bell krater*, c. 410 BC, in MET New York

Greek Pottery Painting & Ornamental Details

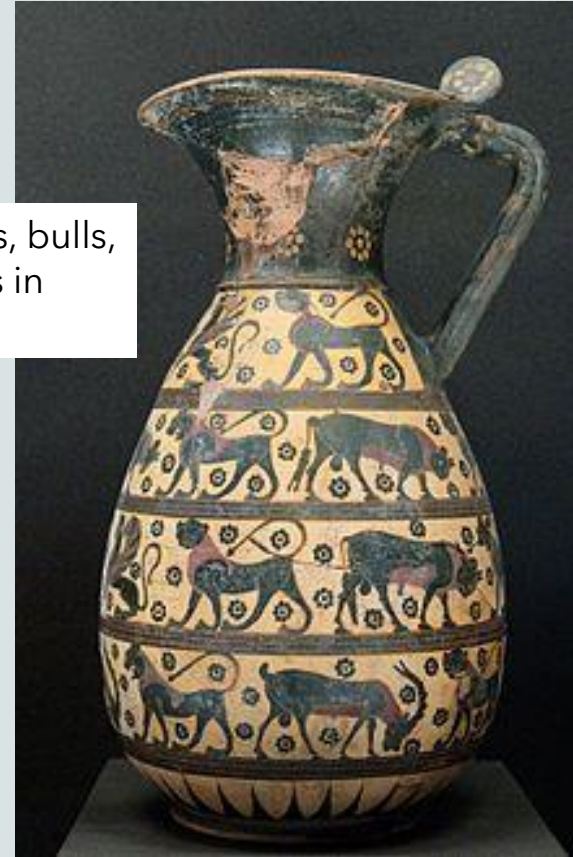
GEOMETRIC STYLE (9-8TH C. BC)



*Hirschfeld
krater, 8th C.
BC, in MET,
New York*

Space on vase filled with meanders, triangles, Greek key, or other geometric designs (may include bands of horses, stags, goats, geese, etc.)

ORIENTALIZING STYLE (8-7TH C. BC)



7th C. BC with lions, bulls, ibex, and sphinxes in Louvre, Paris

Friezes of sphinx, griffins, lions, & non-mythological animals along with lotuses and palmettes

Black-Figure vs. **Red-Figure** Style Pottery Painting



6th century BC Athenian *amphora* in black figure, now in the Louvre, Paris

RED FIGURE
POTTERY
PAINTING
(6-5TH C. BC)

BLACK
FIGURE
POTTERY
PAINTING
(7-5TH C. BC)

5th century BC *amphora* in red figure, depicting Oedipus & the Sphinx, now in the SA, Munich



Greek Pottery Ornaments



Palmettes with Lotus buds



1. Palmettes with Lotus Buds

Palmettes



2. Palmettes

Palmettes-Lotus Chain



3. Palmettes Lotus Chain

Ivy



4. Ivy

Hanging Lotus buds



5. Hanging Lotus Buds

Greek Key



6. Key

Greek Key Meander



7. Meander

Tongues



8. Tongues

Stopped Meander



9. Stopped Meander

Rays



10. Rays

The Trojan War & The Adventures of Odysseus

Black Figure Pottery Project

- Choose a scene from the **Trojan War** or the **Adventures of Odysseus** and sign up with Ms. Dyer.
- Choose a Greek pottery template.
- Using black markers, illustrate your scene onto the body of the vase. Sketch lightly in pencil first, so that you can erase if necessary!
- Be sure to include common Greek ornamental details along the neck and bottom of your vase.
- Cut out your Greek pottery; label the back of the vase with your **name, vase style, "Trojan War"** or **"Odyssey"** and the **scene** that you depicted on the front of your vase.

Trojan War Scenes for Pottery Project

- I: Eris setting a golden apple on a table at the wedding of Thetis & the human Peleus.
- I: Paris judges the goddesses.
- I: Helen is taken by Paris.
- I: Artemis mourning the death of a family of rabbits.
- I: Iphigenia is sacrificed by her father, Agamemnon.
- I: Odysseus pretends to be “mad” & plows salt into Ithacan fields.
- I: Thetis hides Achilles, dressed as a woman, in the court of Lycomedes on Scyros.
- I: Greek ships sail for Troy.
- I: Philotes & the bow and arrows of Hercules were abandoned on an island stop to Troy.
- I: Chryseis and Briseis are held as slaves.
- I: Hector arms himself.
- I: Hephaestus makes arms for Achilles.
- I: Hector and Achilles fight.
- I: Priam asks for his son’s body to be returned.
- I: Achilles slays Amazon Queen Penthesilea.
- I: Aurora mourns the death of her son, Ethiopian King Memnon.
- I: Achilles meets Polyxena in the Temple of Apollo.
- I: Paris shoots Achilles in the heel.
- I: Ajax carries the dead Achilles.
- I: Thetis and the sea sisters mourn Achilles’ death.
- I: The Greeks vote on who will receive the armor & weapons of Achilles.
- I: Ajax falls on his sword.
- I: The Trojan Horse portends the fall of Troy.
- I: Laocoon is snatched from the shore by Poseidon’s sea serpent.
- I: Greeks burn Troy.
- I: Pyrrhus kills King Priam.
- I: Menelaus takes Helen back.

Adventures of Odysseus Scenes for Pottery Project

- O: Penelope weaves on her great loom.
- O: Telemachus searches for his father.
- O: Suitors feasting in the court of Penelope in Odysseus's absence.
- O: Angry Poseidon makes waves.
- O: Nausicaa finds Odysseus.
- O: Odysseus tells his story in the Phaeacians' palace.
- O: The Greeks destroy Troy with the Trojan horse.
- O: The naiads play in the waves with the Trojan treasure.
- O: Odysseus' crew offered the Lotus flower by the Lotus Eaters.
- O: Cyclops eats 2 of Odysseus' s crew inside his cave.
- O: Polyphemus enjoys his goatskin of wine.
- O: Odysseus sharpens cyclops' club to a fine point.
- O: Odysseus blinds Polyphemus.
- O: Odysseus & his men escape under the sheep's bellies.
- O: Odysseus on his ship, shouting back to shore at the blinded Polyphemus.
- O: The golden palace of Aeolus amazes everyone.
- O: The crew opens the bag, causing the winds to escape within sight of Ithaca.
- O: Aeolus sends a blast of wind.
- O: Laestrygonian cannibals throw rocks & destroy the ships of Odysseus, except his.
- O: Circe enchants Eurylockus & the scouts, turning them into swine.
- O: Hermes stops Odysseus, on his way to rescue his men from Circe, to give him "*moly.*"
- O: Odysseus visits Tiresias in the Underworld.
- O: The Sirens tempt Odysseus' crew.
- O: Scylla & Charybdis wreak havoc on Odysseus's ships.
- O: Odysseus's crew hunt & eat the cattle of Helios.
- O: Calypso tries to keep Odysseus on her island paradise.
- O: Odysseus builds a boat.
- O: Euryklea & Argus, the dog, recognize Odysseus.
- O: The contest of the 12 Axe Handles is held in Ithaca.