

Debate research templates

Proposition for the motion: “This house believes that the Elgin Marbles should be given back to Greece”.

These are the links you can browse to find out information:

- http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/greeks/parthenon_debate_01.shtml BBC assessment of the fate of the Elgin Marbles
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-18373312> Account of a debate between Stephen Fry and Tristram Hunt about returning the Marbles to Greece on the BBC website
- http://www.britishmuseum.org/about_us/news_and_press/statements/parthenon_sculptures.aspx Background on how the Parthenon Marbles came to be in the British Museum
- http://www.britishmuseum.org/about_us/news_and_press/statements/parthenon_sculptures/facts_and_figures.aspx Facts and figures about where the Parthenon Marbles are
- http://www.britishmuseum.org/about_us/news_and_press/statements/parthenon_sculptures/trustees_statement.aspx The British Museum's position on who should keep the Parthenon Marbles
- <http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2015/may/13/greece-drops-option-legal-action-british-museum-parthenon-marbles-row> Guardian article on how Greece has dropped its bid for the Elgin Marbles

You need to find out the following:

How did Lord Elgin get the Marbles?	<i>Were they stolen, bought or given?</i>
Who was running Greece at the time?	<i>Was it run by an empire outside Greece who didn't have the right to give them away/sell them?</i>
Who supports the return of the Marbles to Greece?	<i>Most of the British, celebrities, no-one?</i>
Why would it be good to return them to Greece?	<i>To appreciate them in their original place, because Greece needs the tourists?</i>
How are they displayed in the British Museum?	<i>On the top of a replica Parthenon, at eye level in a normal gallery?</i>
How would they be displayed in Athens?	<i>On the Parthenon, in a museum which showed them in the same way near the Parthenon?</i>
What story would the Marbles tell in Greece?	<i>How integral they are to Greek heritage, how they looked on the Parthenon?</i>

Opposition against the motion: “This house believes that the Elgin Marbles should be given back to Greece”.

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You need to find out the following:

How did the Marbles get into the British Museum?	<i>Were they stolen, bought or given?</i>
Where are the other Marbles from the Parthenon?	<i>On the Parthenon, in other museums?</i>
What does the British Museum do with the Marbles?	<i>Keep them shut away, conserve and research them, display them to millions of visitors for free?</i>
Does Athens own and display some Parthenon Marbles?	<i>Yes and in a museum, yes and on the Parthenon, no?</i>
If they were returned would they be fixed back on the Parthenon?	<i>Yes to be where they were originally, no the Parthenon is a ruin, they would be in a museum?</i>
What has Greece decided recently?	<i>To keep asking for the Marbles, to give up?</i>
What story do the Marbles tell in the British Museum?	<i>How important they are as world art, how they looked on the Parthenon?</i>