

UKS2 Topic: Ancient Greeks Block G: Parthenon Marbles Session 1

A virtual reconstruction of the Parthenon

Read the following text once all chn have seen this video once. Pause at the moments indicated below.

Pause at 12 seconds

The Parthenon was completed in 432 BCE as the crowning monument of the Athenian Acropolis. It was dedicated to the goddess Athena and housed many offerings to the goddess, including the sculpture on the building itself. This was the second treasury built on this site to Athena, the first was destroyed by the Persians in 480 BCE.

Some of the Parthenon's sculptures were removed from Athens in the 1800s after the building was in ruins, having blown up after being used as an ammunition store in 1687, and are now on display in the British Museum. A similar number are on display in the Acropolis Museum in Athens and there are some in other museums in Europe.

15-37 seconds

These are 3D scans of bits of the building, including some of the carved sculptures of men, women and animals. Later the building was turned into a church, hence the cross carved onto it, and after that it became a mosque when the Muslim Ottoman Empire took over Greece. In 1687 Athens was under siege from Venetians and the Parthenon was hit by cannon balls.

39 – 1:12

Now the building is a ruin but is still beautiful. There are remnants of sculpture, such as the caryatids – columns carved in the shape of women holding the roof up with their heads.

1:14 to 2:00 – then pause

Now many of the sculptures are at the British Museum and you can go and visit them for free. Here you can see them projected using computer graphics as if they were back on the Parthenon again. The sculptures are all made of marble, which is white. But they were not left white.

Start again at 2:00 and pause at 2:11

Now you see the Parthenon in all it's glory. The frieze on the outside of the inner building, the **cella** (pronounced seller), the **metope** all the way round the exterior of the outer building and the sculptures in the **pediment** (the triangular gable ends of the building) were all painted in glorious colours.

Pause again at 2:14

The Parthenon stood on the Acropolis, a rocky hill overlooking Athens, along with many other buildings including temples to Athena. The great Athenian Statesman, Pericles, organised for all the buildings to be built in a bid to make Athens a great power, which it did become. Phidias, a great Athenian sculptor, and Ictinus and Callicrates, two famous architects, were responsible for the reconstruction

2:25-2:52

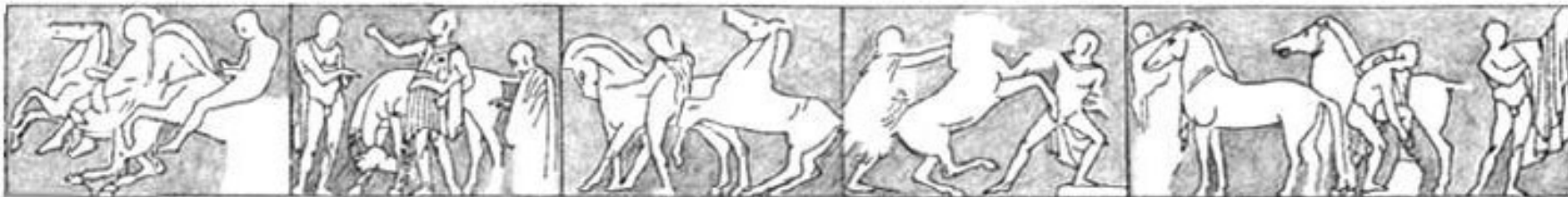
Look at all the people who were involved with researching and making the video. You are going to make your own reconstruction of the Parthenon sculptures and present them to the school/your parents/governors/visitors.

Parthenon frieze jigsaw

Print these out twice, stick them onto card and then cut them up into jigsaw pieces. Give out one page to each group.

West Frieze

North-west
corner of
Parthenon

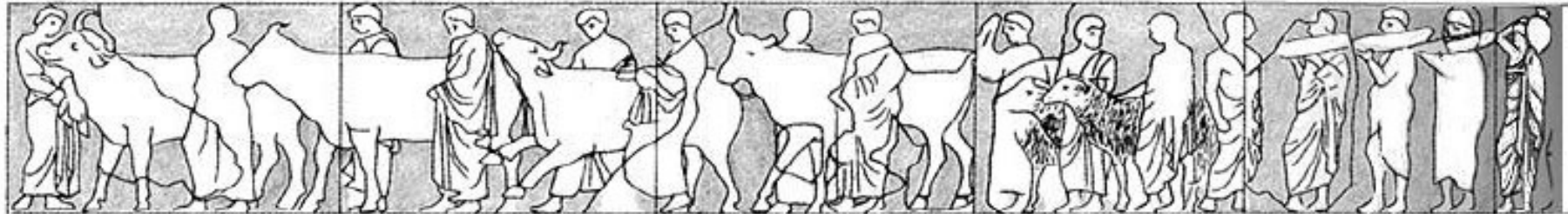


South-west
corner of
Parthenon

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North and South friezes (a lot is lost from these sides).

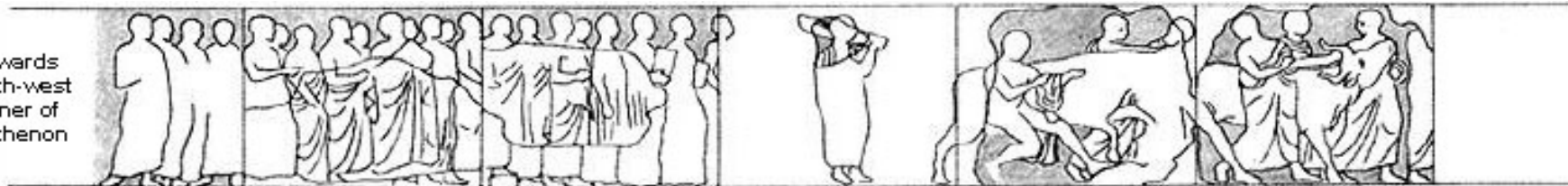
North-east
corner of
Parthenon



Centre-north
of frieze



Towards
South-west
corner of
Parthenon

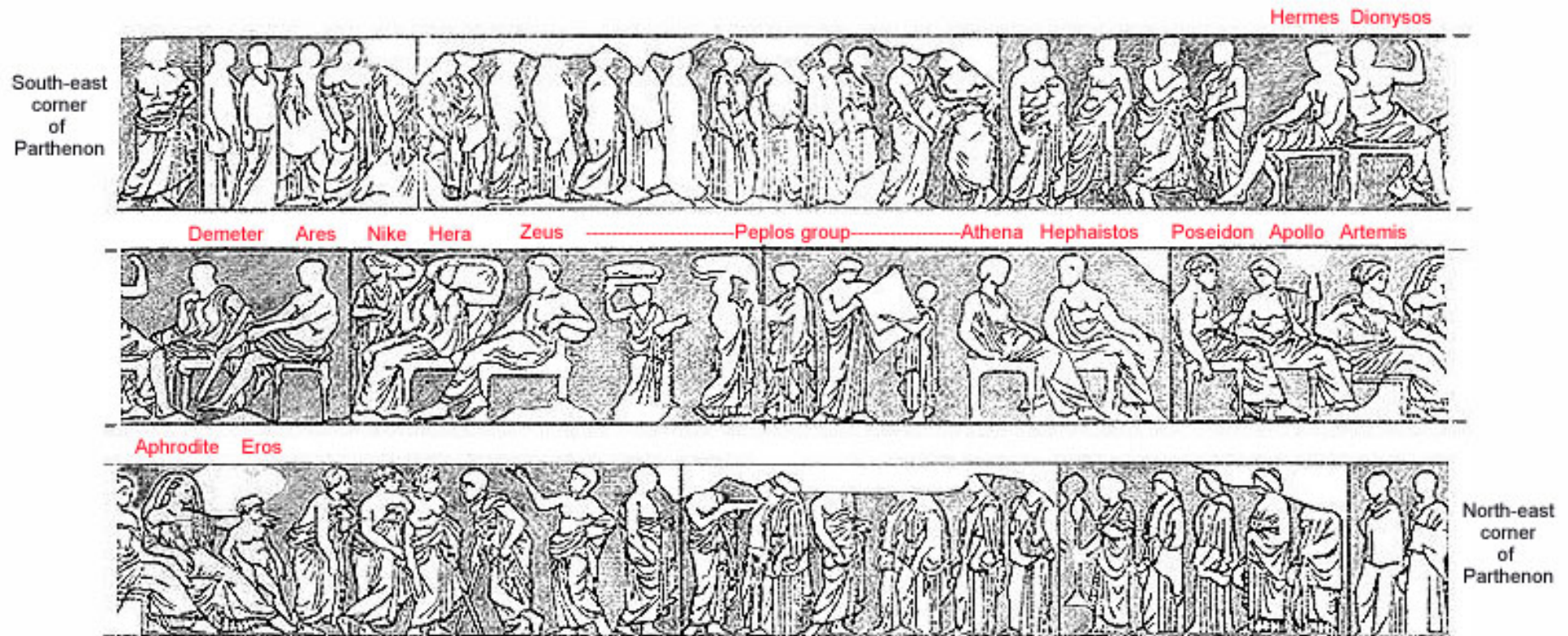


South-east
corner of
Parthenon



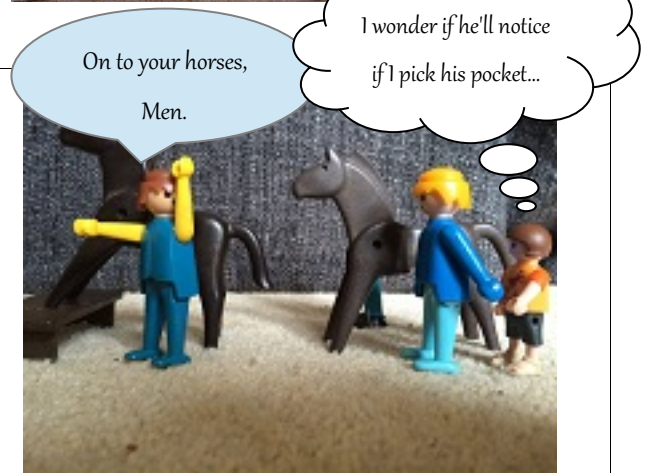
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East frieze



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Small world Parthenon Marbles



V. BM 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37



(MA 855)

