

## Literacy – Elgin Marbles

This week in literacy, I have combined topic work and literacy and you will be learning about the Elgin Marbles which were in The Parthenon in Athens in Ancient Greece. There is a lot of controversy around the Marbles as they were taken from Greece by Thomas Elgin 200 years ago to the British Museum where they are still on display today. I would like you to write a persuasive argument as to whether you believe the Marbles should or should not be returned to Greece. But we have some other things to do before that!

Have a look at: <https://youtu.be/G1D5hbx8CM> shows how The Parthenon would have looked during the time of the Ancient Greeks.

### Activity 1

Once you have seen it, talk through what you are seeing with the script from 'A virtual reconstruction of the Parthenon' (session resource).

### Activity 2

Then have a go at working on the Parthenon Frieze jigsaw (session resource). Think about the four places where there is sculpture on the Parthenon (caryatids, frieze on the cella, metopes on the outside, in the pediments). The sculpture in the frieze on the inner cella tells the story of the Panathenaic procession which happened each year in Athens. Once a year on the day said to be her birthday, citizens would parade to Athena's temple to present her with a peplos (a dress) woven by young women, as she was the goddess of weaving. Can you put together the frieze, which would have started from the south-west corner of the temple and split, with two processions making their way along the long sides to come together at the east end? Have a look at the Parthenon Frieze story (session resource). Using the last slide from the Parthenon Frieze story, can you get them in the right place? Can you see any musicians or water-bearers, animals being led to slaughter? Can you see any points where the people might be talking to one another? Find one and, with a partner, imagine what they could be saying.

### Activity 3

Recreate that scene with small world figures. Look at some examples from the small world recreation of the Parthenon Frieze (session resource). Photograph your scenes and add speech bubbles to the photographs (either manually or using an app such as Bubblee, Photo Note or Photo Talks) or to video them and speak the dialogue themselves.

There is another aspect of the Parthenon Marbles which is why so many of them are in the British Museum, instead of still on the Parthenon or in a museum in Athens. There are lots of people who think that the British Museum should give them back. You are going to debate the motion: *"This house believes that the Elgin Marbles should be given back to Greece"*. You need to research and prepare arguments for the proposition (for) or the opposition (against) side of the debate. Read the information on the following weblinks:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/greeks/parthenon\\_debate\\_01.shtml](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> - Debate between Stephen Fry and Tristram Hunt about returning the Marbles to Greece;

[http://www.britishmuseum.org/about\\_us/news\\_and\\_press/statements/parthenon\\_sculptures.aspx](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](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](http://www.britishmuseum.org/about_us/news_and_press/statements/parthenon_sculptures/trustees_statement.aspx) - 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> - Article on how Greece has dropped it's bid for the Elgin Marbles.

and fill in the research templates in the resource.

Use the debate template (session resources) to create an information board about the debate over returning the Marbles to Greece. List the most important facts about each topic to be explained on the board. Then decide what order they should go in.