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NICHOLAS AND DOLLY GOULANDRIS FOUNDATION  
MUSEUM OF CYCLADIC ART

## **Educational Museum Kits**

The Museum Kits are cases that travel from school to school. Created to bring the world of the Museum closer to children and teachers, they are designed primarily for schools located in the Greek provinces or abroad.

Each Museum Kit focuses on a specific subject and contains copies of artifacts, teaching material, digital images, books, and educational games. Teachers can use the material in whatever way they think best for each particular group and encourage students to take an active role in the presentation.

The next step is a museum visit. Students do not necessarily have to visit the Museum of Cycladic Art; they can visit the nearest museum that contains exhibits related to the subject of the Museum Kit. This way, even schools in the remote areas of Greece or abroad can use the Museum Kit to prepare for a museum visit.

The Museum Kits cover the following subjects:

### **Cycladic Culture**

**Playing in Ancient Greece**

**Ancient Greek Pottery**

**Dress in Ancient Greece**

**Ancient greek diet**

**Daily life in ancient Greece**

**The Cyclades through touch: a multisensory kit**

## Cycladic Culture

The Cycladic Culture Museum Kit was primarily designed for students at all levels of primary and secondary education. The kit's material can also be used by organizations and institutions involved in promoting Greece's cultural heritage.

The Museum Kit aims to serve as an interactive and creative introduction to Cycladic civilization. It can be used either in school as educational material in History, Art, and Environmental Education classes or to prepare students for a visit to the Museum of Cycladic Art, as well as any other museum in Greece or abroad that has Cycladic cultural artifacts in its collection.

### The Contents of the Museum Kit

#### A. Teaching Material

##### 1. Teacher's Folder on Cycladic Culture, which contains:

- A book for the teacher with bibliography and suggestions for class assignments.
- A CD with an introduction to Cycladic Culture.
- A 20-minute DVD on Cycladic Culture.
- Two educational games (instructions are included).

##### 2. Books

- Christos Doumas, Early Cycladic Culture (the Museum catalogue)
- Pat Getz-Preziosi, Drawing Book of Cycladic Art
- Marina Plati-Eleni Markou, Is it a man or a violin. A modern eye on Cycladic sculpture

##### 3. Map

##### 4. CD with:

links to selected sources on Cycladic Culture

## 5. Timeline

## 6. Cards with pictures of exhibits in the Museum's Cycladic Collection

### B. Materials for Manufacturing and Decorating Figurines

### C. Copies of Marble Figurines

The Museum Kit contains figurines made of resin that are exact copies of the marble figurines in the Cycladic Collection of the Museum of Cycladic Art (3200-2000 BC.)

### D. Artbox

The folder contains a series of Cycladic figurine stencils and a poster with instructions and suggestions for visual art applications. The suggested ideas are just indicative and certainly should not limit teachers. On the contrary, they provide an opportunity for children to use their imagination and creativity to come up with even more ideas.

## IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR USING THE MUSEUM KIT

The subject of the Museum Kit is Cycladic Culture in general, with, however, an emphasis on sculpture, since it was the marble figurines that made the Cycladic Culture famous. The kit contains copies of some of the most representative and best-known figurines of the Museum's Cycladic Collection, providing students and teachers with the opportunity to become intimately acquainted with these splendid examples of Cycladic art.

Using the **copies of the figurines**, teachers can set up a small classroom exhibit for as long as the Museum Kit remains at the school. Students will thus have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the figurines, to hold and study them.

The materials, such as **marble, obsidian, pumice, as well as the bronze chisels** the inhabitants of the Cyclades used to manufacture the figurines can also be part of the exhibition. Children will thus be able to examine and "touch" the marble, the material used to make the figurines, as well as the stones and bronze chisel, which were used as tools. This will provide teachers with the opportunity to talk to their class about these materials, which at one time played a very important role in the life of the inhabitants of the Cyclades and, indeed, were valuable trade goods. They could also explain to their students which materials are still in use and which have been replaced by modern technology.

One particular thing that should be brought to the students' attention is that **color was used** to decorate the figurines.

Unlike the artifacts we now see in museum display cases, the figurines were not white. Close examination, as well as special research has demonstrated that color was used to render certain facial features and other details. Therefore, the result would have been totally different from what we are accustomed to.

**Azurite and cinnabar**, the minerals most frequently used by the inhabitants of the Cyclades to manufacture their pigments, can be found in the Museum Kit. To better understand the use of color, teachers might help children to:

- Draw on white cardboard and then cut out the outline of a figurine and color it using colored pencils, magic markers, temperas, etc.
- Use white air dry clay to manufacture figurines and paint them.

Subsequently, they can set them up next to the white figurines and see the difference.

The **Teacher's Folder** and the **books** contain general information on the life and art of the prehistoric inhabitants of the Cyclades and suggestions for classroom activities.

The **map** is designed to be mounted on a wall for the children to look at as long as the introduction lasts; it can also be spread out on the floor so the children can "sit" around the Cyclades and form their own circle. The map can be used by students and teachers to create a large table game. They might:

- Work out a route in the Aegean from island to island, using the islands as stepping stones.
- Create question cards on Cycladic Culture and on the figurines, which will determine the moves of the game.
- Design and make their own game pieces (cardboard figures of Cycladic figurines on plasteline bases). They could also make their own dice or use any pair of available dice.
- The class can then split into two groups to play the game.

The **Timeline** was designed as an assembly game that would help students understand the evolution of the prehistoric periods and turn knowledge into a game. Children can set up the timeline like a puzzle, and if they want to keep it in class they can photocopy the various pieces and glue them onto a piece of cardboard.

The **visual art activities folder** provides the material and teachers can set up a creative workshop in the classroom.

Finally, teachers can use all the information contained in the Museum Kit to arrange a field trip the Metropolitan Museum's Cycladic Collection to give the children the opportunity to see up close the original figurines and other artifacts.



**Marble:**

The white coarse-grained marble of the Cyclades was widely used to manufacture vases and figurines.



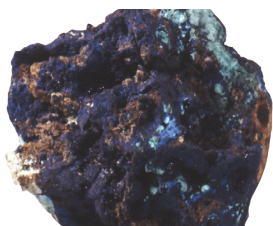
**Obsidian:**

This volcanic rock is abundant on Melos. Obsidian was used as early as the Neolithic period to manufacture blades, arrow or spear heads, etc.



**Pumice:**

pumice was used to polish marble surfaces.



**Azurite:**

A mineral that contains primarily copper oxides, which produces a blue pigment.



**Cinnabar:**

A mineral that produces a red pigment.



**Bronze Chisel:**

To create figurines during this period, the inhabitants of the Cyclades added bronze tools, such as chisels, to their stone tools.



Copy of a violin-shaped figurine.



Copy of a female figurine with folded arms.



Copy of a marble female figurine with folded arms and painted details



Copy of the figurine of a pregnant woman.



Copy of a male figurine depicting a hunter.



Copy of a male figurine seated on a stool and holding a cup.



Copy of a zoomorphic pyxis (small jewelry box).