

GACL KIDS School Holiday FUN...

ONLINE GREEK ART HISTORY AND CULTURE PROGRAM



Children of ALL backgrounds exploring Greek culture in fun and creative ways...

A Greek Island Seascape



Georgia Zangalis Age 6

GACL KIDS explored 'dot painting', a technique used by our First Nations People for thousands of years. In the 1800's, French Impressionist artist Georges Seurat also used dots to add colour to his famous works and called it 'Pointillism'. The students painted a Greek Island Seascape using hundreds of tiny dots to represent the 6000 islands and islets that belong to Greece, although not more than 300 of them are actually inhabited! We included a brilliant sunset as Greece is in fact, one of the sunniest places in the world and also painted a tiny island village overlooking the famous Greek blue sea, and of course added rows of 'ambelia'. We discussed why houses are painted white too keep them cool in the hot summer and why most doors and windows are blue. Some say it's to be patriotic as these are the colours of the Greek flag. Others believe it's to ward off bad luck, the same way a blue and white 'mati' does.

Famous Horses of Ancient Greece



Zoe Hatzis Age 10

Children were instructed to make a 3D model of a horse whilst learning about three of the most famous horses from ancient history, Bucephalus, The Trojan Horse and Pegasus. They created their model from a template which was emailed prior, selected the horse that appealed to them most, then painted and decorated accordingly with 'embellishments' found at home such as toothpicks and match sticks for the Trojan Horse, white feathers for the white winged horse Pegasus and buttons and beads for Bucephalus, the mighty warhorse who conquered the world with his master, Alexander the Great. Whilst busy creating, children were told the story of each horse, learnt interesting facts and the origins of each horse's name. 'bous' means 'ox' and 'kephalos' is 'head' = 'OxHead' or 'Bucephalus' 'Pegi' means water spring = 'Pegasus'... so the myth goes, wherever Pegasus landed and struck the earth with his hoof, a beautiful spring of water was created. Afterall, he was the son of Posideon, the Greek God of the Sea!

Geometric Era of Ancient Greece



Friends, Coco and Valentina joined the class together

Designs on ancient Greek vases often told a story. Some stories were of daily life while others were of myths, famous wars, gods and heroes, funeral scenes, sea battles, dancing or sport. Over time, archaeologists have discovered many pieces of broken pottery which they've been able to piece together to learn how people lived in ancient Greece. GACL KIDS explored the 4 basic geometric shapes- circle, triangle, rectangle and square and how they were used to form repeating and connecting patterns on ancient Greek vases. Students drew then cut pieces of coloured paper to construct their own geometric design. Such patterns were used to decorate horizontal bands around the top and bottom of a vase and were also used for decorating temples and clothing, some of which are still popular today. In the middle section of the vase, students painted their own story, an activity they did during the school holidays.



A Greek Australian Cultural League initiative

For more details visit gacl.com.au and click on **GACL KIDS 2021**

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Media Article

GACL KIDS is a new online art and culture program proudly presented by the Greek Australian Cultural League. Children aged 5-12, of all nationalities are welcome to participate as it is not a language program, but rather one that aims to provide opportunities for children to explore the wonders of Greek history, art and culture in fun and creative ways. The program provides a great way for children to meet and share their work with other children, nation-wide, in a safe secure platform and in the comfort of their own home. An experienced art teacher facilitates the program online in 'real-time' using Zoom with all activities designed to work well in the home environment using easily sourced everyday materials.

GACLKIDS commenced in 2021 during the Term 1 school holidays and consisted of a series of 3 x 1.5 hour activities, each with a different historical and cultural theme accompanied by a varied art medium or technique. In Term 1, children created a 3D model of a horse while listening to the story of three famous ancient horses, explored geometric art, creating their own 'ancient' story telling vase and also painted an idyllic seascape using the technique of pointillism while learning all about the Greek Islands.

The program proved successful with additional programs being planned for the next Term 2 school holiday period. From the 29th June to 1st July, children will have the opportunity to engage in the process of paper weaving whilst learning about the ancient Penelope and her loom. They can also listen to beautiful Greek myths explaining how the names of certain flowers were derived and learn to paint them 'without a brush'. Finally, they can explore the story of Icarus and what happened to his wings while creating some amazing feather paintings of their own.

To view the next GACLKIDS program and to register your interest, please visit www.gacl.com.au

Children who participate can also join in the GACLKIDS CLUB, an online gallery of creative works and blog especially made for children, by children.

Our first GACLKIDS ambassador had this to say about her experience-

As I logged on the first art class session a feeling of joy and excitement filled me. We were making Ancient Greek horses and I love learning facts about Ancient Greece. It was time to start making my horse and I chose to do the Trojan horse because it had a lot of history. The next day probably even more excited than the last, I hopped on to the class and was ready, knowing that this session was going to be a blast and of course it was. We were learning about the different ancient Greek pots and what they were used for. Last but certainly not least was the last day of dot painting. I love dot paintings because there is so much detail in the little dots. We were looking at a painting and I realised that it was made of dots. I really enjoyed doing the Greek Island scene and using materials that have a circular shape. There were also some fun facts that I learned and they are always so interesting. I really hope that I do something like that again. - Zoe Hatzis Age 10



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