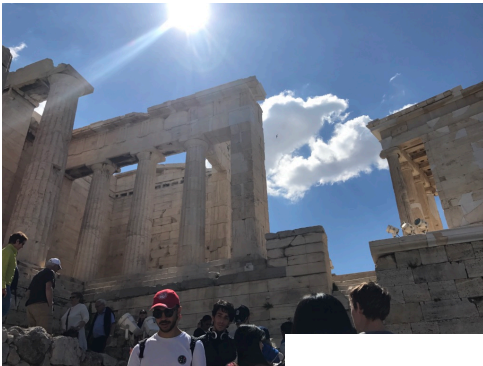


The Colors of Ancient Greece

Museums are excellent places to view your favorite art pieces and learn about them. Though we hardly think about the art before it reaches the museum.

While offering a rich history and culture, Ancient Greece was also an excellent time for art production. Greece is considered a **source country**, meaning it has a large amount of ancient artifacts from within. Even today, archeologists are still excavating sites like the **Parthenon** while continuing to find artifacts within subways and underneath city sites.



Images from the Parthenon and Parthenon Museum in Athens, Greece.

Archeologists/Historians/Conservators:

Archeologists focus on finding and analyzing physical remains, like artifacts and architecture, to better understand human culture in the past. **Historians** primarily use documents and the materials found by archeologists to better understand the past. **Conservators** are specially trained to preserve and steady pieces while stopping more damage.

The Rediscovery of the Ancient Past:

Excavations in the 15th and 16th centuries during the **Renaissance** led to the rediscovery of many ancient statues that we see in museums around the world today. The Renaissance was a period in Europe between the 14th and 17th centuries. During this time a new interest in classical literature, culture, and art began. Ancient Greek Statues influenced famous Renaissance artists like Michelangelo, Raphael, Leonardo Da Vinci, and Donatello.

Ancient Greek Statuary:

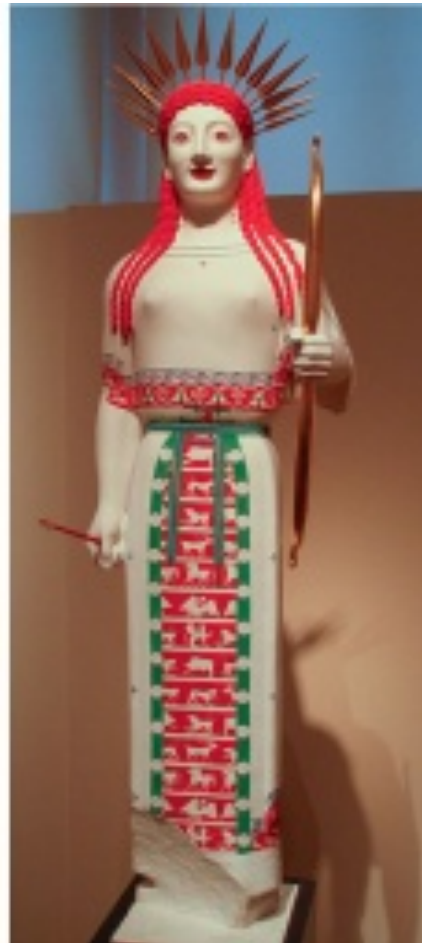
Traditionally, Ancient Greek statuary was colorfully painted, not left white, how we usually see them today. Years of being buried underground easily stripped ancient Greek statuary of its original color. When these statues were first being rediscovered in the Renaissance, scholars at the time believed that the ancient Greeks

left their statues colorless on purpose. Technology today has been able to prove that ancient Greek statuary was originally richly painted.

Ancient artists made their own colors to paint with called **pigments**. They used minerals like azurite and malachite to create the colors blue and green. Brown and yellows were made from the earth and red was made from the mineral cinnabar. All of these minerals would be ground into a fine powder and then mixed with egg, casein, or oil.



Minerals ground to create different colored pigments.



Peplos Kore (left), Alternative reconstructions of the Peplos Kore (middle & right) in the [Gods in Colour](#) exhibition, at right as [Artemis](#).