



GLENCAIRN
MUSEUM

***DIGITAL
SUMMER
CAMP***

Week 2

Missed Week 1? [Click here!](#)

Religion in the Ancient World

For the next two weeks of camp, we're going to explore types of art found at Glencairn and create your own version of an object that will go inside your museum! The ancient art and objects found in Glencairn Museum are from four different cultures - Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Greek, and Roman.

These ancient cultures were all polytheistic (they worshiped many gods and goddesses). At Glencairn, we have artifacts that show this in all sorts of ways!

One practice that these different cultures shared was to worship **cult statues**. Cult statues are statues of gods and goddesses that people believed could be inhabited by the god that it looked like. These cult statues would often be in a temple.

This statue (right) is in Glencairn's Roman Gallery. It is of the goddess Minerva-Victoria, a combination of the goddess of war and the goddess of victory. This almost life-size statue would have stood in a sacred space, like a temple, where people could ask the goddess Minerva-Victoria for help or protection in battle.



A recreation of what the Greek cult statue of Athena might have looked like inside the Parthenon.



Click to learn more about Glencairn's Minerva-Victoria statue and other treasures in our Roman Gallery.

Another practice was the act of making **offerings** to the gods. An offering was brought to the temple or sanctuary to honor, thank, or ask the gods for something. Offerings could be statues, coins, liquids like perfume or oil, or sacrifices.



This is called a **kouros statue**. It comes from ancient Greece. This kouros is only 15 inches tall. It's small size is because it was used as a votive statue (something given at a sacred place without wanting it back). A person would have brought this kouros to the temple and placed it before the cult statue. This was done to show the gods that they were there to honor them. Sometimes kouros statues hold things that help to identify the person who left it.

Ancient Greeks weren't the only culture to give votive offerings!



Click on the hand and mask to explore how many ancient cultures gave offerings of parts of the body.

Click on the bronze animal head to explore instruments offered by ancient Celtic people.

This bronze sculpture of a cat is from ancient Egypt. It represents the goddess Bastet. Bastet was a protective goddess. She was associated with mothers.



As you can see here, Bastet is shown as a mother cat with her nursing kittens. You can imagine a mother who wants her children to be healthy and safe bringing this votive to the temple to ask Bastet for assistance.

Create a cult statue or offering!

For this weeks activity, you get to create your own cult statue or offering.

If you decide to make a cult statue you can make up your own god or goddess or use one from one of the ancient cultures. Think about what they have power over, what they look like, and what they carry that helps to identify them!

If you decide to create an offering think about who it is for what they would ask for. Is it a votive statue of a person (like the kouros) or of a god (like the sculpture of Bastet)? What helps you identify the person or the god?

How to create a tinfoil person

1. Get a sheet of tin foil about the size of a piece of paper.



2. Cut or rip three times - twice at the top, creating three equal tabs for arms and a head, and once in the middle of the bottom to create two tabs for legs.



3. Take the uncut sides and scrunch the center together to form the center of the tin foil person's body.



4. For last step in creating the basic form of your tinfoil person scrunch in the bottom two tabs to create legs, then the outer two tabs as the arms, and then the center tab to form the head.



5. Add finishing touches like features (hair, clothes, headdress/crown) or objects that help to identify your person or god.



We made ours look like the Greek god, Zeus!

6. Place your statue in your model museum that you made last week



7. Send a picture of your creation to info@glencairnmuseum.org or share it a social media platform like Facebook or Instagram and tag @glencairnmuseum

