Greek Coins Explorer's Notebook



A Multisensory Experience Inspired by Ancient Greek Coins



Hello, explorers!

What do you think money looked like in Ancient Greece? As it turns out, their coins looked similar to many used today. They were made of metal and had pictures of important things on them. These coins here have Athena, the goddess of war and wisdom, on one side and an owl, Athena's sacred animal, on the other.

This coin is worth about four days' wages for someone who worked in Ancient Greece. That means that every four days, a worker would get this coin. That's a lot of money!



Historians study lots of big things like statues, but they also study little things like coins.

What do you think historians in the future will think about the coins we use today?

Have a good adventure!



Exploration 1: A Matching Game

There are lots and lots of coins from Ancient Greece, not just one kind. There are coins with gods, goddesses, and heroes on them. You can use clues to figure out who is on each of the coins.

Draw a line between the description and the coin it describes. Can you figure them all out?

Descriptions

Artemis: a goddess who hunts with a bow and arrow

Dionysus: a god who has horns like a goat

Poseidon: a god who carries a weapon called a trident

Zeus: a god with a big beard and a crown of leaves

Check the answer key on page 33 to see how you did!



Exploration 2: Speaking Ancient Greek

People still speak Greek today, but it is different from the Greek that people spoke in ancient times. You can practice saying some words in Ancient Greek. The letters look different than the letters in the English alphabet. Here are some of the words to describe the coins. Can you practice saying them?

Word	Translation	Pronunciation	
Χϱτσοῦς	Golden	Crease-oose	
Δραχμή	Coin	Drak-may	
Κυκλοτερής	Round	Kook-low-teris	
Θεός	Gods	They-os	
Άρχαῖος	Ancient	Arka-eeos	

Nice job! Those words can be hard to pronounce.



Which word did you like pronouncing the best?

Which word did you struggle with?

Have you ever heard another language that sounds like ancient Greek?



Exploration 3: Making Money

If you had the chance to make coins of your own, what would you put on them? You can make your own coins and put whatever pictures you would like to on them.



You will need:

- A piece of thin cardboard
- Scissors
- A pencil
- Anything you'd like to decorate your coins with
- An adult to help you

Instructions:

- Draw your coins onto the piece of cardboard. They can be any shape and size you would like.
- Cut out each of the coins. You might need to ask an adult for help.

Now, you can decorate your coins however you would like. Here are some ideas if you're feeling stuck:

- Paint the coins your favorite color.
- Wrap the coins in aluminum foil so that they are shiny. If you use a dull pencil, you can make patterns in the foil!
- Make coins with drawings of your favorite things.



Exploration 4: Making Pancakes



Did you know that people in Ancient Greece ate pancakes, just like many people do today? Instead of using syrup and butter, they liked to use honey and sesame seeds.

Pancakes with Honey and Sesame Seeds Yields about 4 pancakes

You will need:

- 1 cup of flour
- 1 cup of water
- 1 tablespoon of honey
- 1 tablespoon of sesame seeds
- Some olive oil

Directions:

- Mix the flour, water, and honey to form the batter.
- Ask a grownup for help to heat the olive oil in a pan on the stove and add a scoop of the batter.
- Cook each side until golden brown.
- Serve with honey and sesame seeds.



What did you smell as the pancakes were cooking? You can write about it or draw a picture.

What do the pancakes taste like? Have you ever tasted something like them before?



Exploration 5: Greek Coin Yoga

Every coin has a picture of a god or goddess on it and all the gods and goddesses have many stories written about them. The following yoga poses show a part of a god or goddess's story. It's okay if you can't do the poses perfectly, everyone does yoga a little differently.



This pose is called warrior pose. Many of the gods and goddesses were warriors, especially ones like Athena, Zeus, and Poseidon. Try doing warrior pose. What did you look like doing warrior pose?







This pose is called bow pose. Artemis hunted with a bow and arrow. Try doing bow pose. What did you look like doing bow pose?





This pose is called cobra pose. A cobra is a kind of snake. Athena wore a pin made of snakes. Try doing cobra pose. What did you look like doing cobra pose?







This pose is called goddess pose. Lots of greek coins have goddesses on them. Try doing goddess pose. What did you look like doing goddess pose?

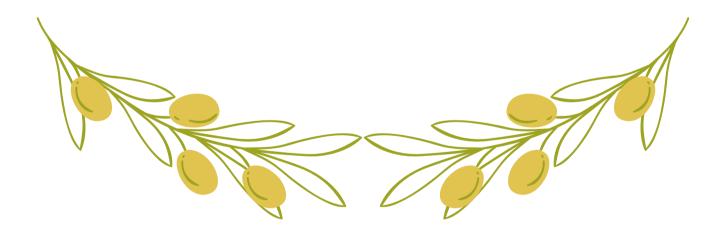




Additional Activity: Your Name in Ancient Greek

Using the Ancient Greek alphabet, you can spell out your name. It can be hard to write in a new alphabet, so be patient if it takes you a few tries to get it right!

If your name has a letter in it that isn't in the Ancient Greek alphabet, that's okay! Think about the sound the letter makes. Is there another letter that sounds like it? If not, think like a detective. What few letters could you use to make a sound that is similar? You're an explorer, you can have a brand new name!





Greek	Uppercase	Lowercase	English
Alpha	А	α	a
Beta	В	β	b
Gamma	Г	γ	g
Delta	Δ	δ	d
Epsilon	E	ε	e
Zeta	Z	ζ	z
Eta	н	η	ee
Theta	Θ	θ	th
lota	Ι	1	i
Карра	К	κ	k
Lambda	Λ	λ	1
Mu	М	μ	m
Nu	N	ν	n
Xi	Ξ	ξ	x
Omicron	0	0	0
Pi	П	π	р
Rho	Р	ρ	r
Sigma	Σ	σ	s
Tau	Т	τ	t
Upsilon	Y	υ	u
Phi	Φ	φ	f
Chi	х	χ	ch
Psi	Ψ	Ψ	ps
Omega	Ω	ω	00





Sources

Paravantes, Elena. "3 Easy Ancient Greek Recipes You Can Make Today." Olive Tomato, 3 Oct 2012, https://www.olivetomato.com/3-easy-ancient-greek-recipes-you-can-make-today/. Accessed 15 Jun 2020.

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