

Be Inspired by Josiah!

Create a vase design for Josiah Wedgwood's fashionable showroom in Bath!

Draw, paint, colour or collage a new Wedgwood vase taking inspiration from ancient Greek and Roman worlds. The Georgian ladies and gentlemen visiting Bath are looking for an 'antique' ceramic vase to display in their grand country houses – can you help?

Did you know that Wedgwood really did have a 'showroom' at the bottom of Milsom Street, Bath from 1774?



If you'd like to share ...

Email an image of your creation to e.blythe@holburne.org

We'll be featuring a selection on Instagram.

Follow [changing_lives_through_art](#) to see what everyone's been making!



Jasperware Vases, Josiah Wedgwood, 1770–80's, Holburne Museum

These vases were made in Josiah Wedgwood's Etruria ceramics factory near Hanley in Staffordshire.

How were they made?

- The vases were turned on a potter's wheel and decorated with tiny relief ornaments, made in separate moulds and carefully stuck on with slip (diluted clay). This process is called sprigging. To see a short video showing how jasperware is made today see www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5cCm7j_2Ks

Vase madness!

The vases are decorated in the Classical style inspired by ancient Greek and Roman civilisations. Wedgwood was responding to the huge appetite for everything 'antique' which grew from new archaeological discoveries in Italy in the mid 18th century, especially the excavation of buried Roman cities such as Pompeii. Wedgwood created his designs with the help of other artists and his extensive library of books, published to illustrate classical sources.

Can you spot ...

2 putti (winged cherub or cupid)

A frieze of 'Vitruvian scroll' with small flowers

A double Greek Key pattern

Stylised olive and acanthus leaves to make a repeat pattern



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You need

-A4 card or paper (**download** and print a vase outline)

OR draw your own vase outline (see the activity sheets for ideas)

-Pencil and rubber

-Coloured pencils/pens

-Everyday collage materials – e.g. old magazines/ coloured paper

-Glue

-Scissors

Activity

1. Print out a vase outline or draw your own
2. Use the resources to inspire your classical design
3. Add colour or collage – you don't have to copy the blue jasperware!
4. Take a photo and send to e.blythe@holburne.org

What were Wedgwood vases originally used for?

These Vases were usually placed on mantle-pieces, or the tops of cabinets or bookcases. They were often sold in pairs or sets of three, five or seven pieces.

Why not cut out your vase and decide where you'd like to display it in your home?



Detail of a classical artefact in National Archaeological Museum, Athens

Be inspired by Josiah ...

'I only pretend to have attempted to copy the fine antique forms, but not with absolute servility. I have endeavoured to preserve the style & spirit or if you please the elegant simplicity of antique forms'

Letter from Wedgwood to Dr. Erasmus Darwin in June 1789

The Ancient World – types of Greek vase



DRINKING BOWL
(SKYPHOS)



↑
DRINKING
(KYLIX)



↑
CUPS
(CANTHAROS)



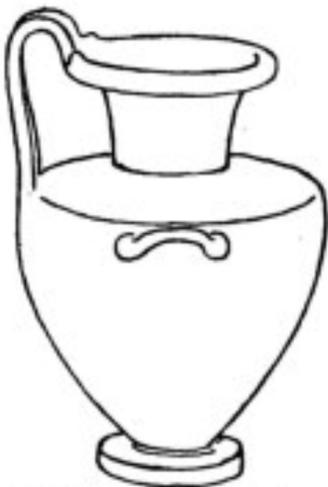
KRATER FOR MIXING
WINE & WATER



AMPHORA FOR
STORING LIQUIDS



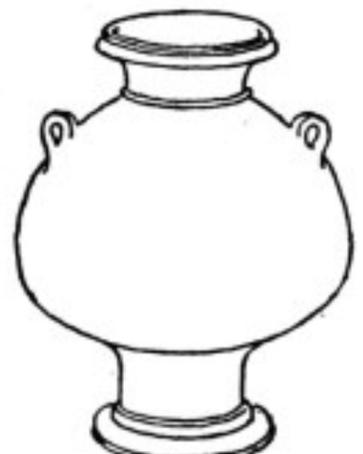
JAR
(STAMNOS)



WATER PITCHER
(HYDRIA)



WINE JUG
(OINOCHOË)



WINE COOLER
(PSYCTER)



OIL JAR
(LEKYTHOS)



CALDRON
(LEBES)



SCENT BOTTLE
(ALABASTRON)

