EVERYDAY CONTAINERS
THEN AND NOW

Greek vases are among some of the most famous examples of ancient Greek art. They also provide us with a record of ancient Greek culture through their highly decorated surfaces covered with myths and scenes of daily life.

Project the transparencies or slides of the Amphora (image 9) and the Stamnos (image 10) in the classroom. Lead a discussion by adapting the questions about both Greek vases from pages 60-63. Ask students to look carefully at the vases’ overall shape and decoration. Based on what they see, can they guess how the vase might have been used? Have students explain what visual clues led them to reach their conclusions.

Distribute the Everyday Containers Then and Now activity sheet (page 141). Have students identify the function of the contemporary containers based on each container’s shape (milk jug, mug, soda bottle). Next, have students decorate the contemporary containers in order to illustrate its contents. Will they use brand names or logos, illustrations, abstract designs? Then, have students choose one of the containers and create its ancient Greek equivalent using orange paper and black markers or black pencil. Before starting their design, have students think about which corresponding ancient Greek myth or scene of daily life might best advertise the contents and function of their container. When completed, display the students’ creations in the classroom. Have students guess the function and contents of one another’s containers.

This activity is adapted from a winning lesson plan submitted by District 93 art teacher Mrs. Debara Hafemann from Wheaton, Illinois.
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ACTIVITY SHEET

Identify the use for each of the following contemporary containers.

You probably recognized the function of each of the containers due to its form. Ancient Greek vessels also had specific forms based on their functions from pouring water to mixing wine and water.

Decorate each of the contemporary containers with images, words, and/or symbols that help tell about its specific function.

What other containers do you use daily that have specific forms? Explain.

Do their decorations inform you about their specific functions? Explain.
Which of the following ancient Greek vessels most closely resembles the functions of the contemporary containers?

![Rhyton](image)

![Amphora](image)

![Stamnos](image)

*Rhyton*  
*Amphora*  
*Stamnos*

Do the contemporary and ancient containers have any features in common? Explain.