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HORSE AND RIDER AH52



This statue of a horse and rider probably originates from Greece or Cyprus. Many figures similar to this one were produced in Boeotia, Greece in the sixth century BC. It is thought they were made as offerings to the gods and would have been placed at temples, sanctuaries and tombs.

The human figure is thought to represent the person making the offering in the hope that the gods would grant them protection in return for their gift. Alternatively, they may have been placed in graves by people as a sign of respect for the position the dead person held in society. Horses would have been expensive to own, therefore it is thought that this type of figure may originally have been made by rich people wishing to emphasise their wealth to others and to the gods.

It is made of brownish red baked clay, known as terracotta and

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would have been made by hand and not in a mould. The figure of the rider appears to have been made separately from the horse and then attached. The stripes that decorate the pottery have been painted on. Many other figures like this are also decorated with painted stripes. The details on the face of the eyes and the mouth have been carved into the clay.

