Hands On Learning
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GREEK POTTERY AH54D



When archaeologists find Greek pottery today they can often get some idea of the trade routes used by the ancient peoples. Greek colonies (the cities of Greek people in different countries), grew up all around the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. At *Emporia* in Spain, *Massilia* in France (Marseilles), *Tripolis* in Libya (Tripoli) and *Olbia* (Odessa) in Ukraine and in the many Greek cities of Sicily and *Magna Graecia* (southern Italy) the Greeks traded with the native populations for locally produced materials. *Emporia* means 'market', *Olbia* means 'prosperity' and *Massilia* was ruled by its rich merchants, showing how successful these trading posts were. This modern map shows the Mediterranean with Greece and Italy in the middle, France to the left, Libya at the bottom and Ukraine on the right.

Trade is a two-way process and different places specialised in providing different materials in return for products from Greece. One of the most important exports from Greek cities such as Athens and Corinth was pottery. Pottery turns up in many locations across the Greek world and beyond, and allows us to trace the old trade routes. Sometimes pottery was traded for its own sake, sometimes it was used as containers for other goods. Pottery included in this box was traded for both reasons.

Phial

This vessel was used to hold perfume and is probably Cypriote in origin. It is a good example of goods being traded *into* Greece as it is not of Greek manufacture. It has a simple decoration of white rings painted against the red background.



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Aryballos

The small round vessel with the wide brim is a typical form of Aryballos. This was a popular form of oil or perfume container manufactured in huge quantities and traded by Corinthian potters. They are often shown on painted pottery from Ancient Greece, being used by athletes to anoint their bodies with oil after bathing. In these pictures the flask is sometimes attached by a strap to an athlete's wrist, or is hung by this strap from a peg on the wall. This particular pot is a quatrefoil aryballos, so called because of the traditional pattern of four leaves painted on the side. The other side displays a four-pointed star. The vessel is Corinthian in origin and dates from 575 to 550 BC.



Phial

The small phial with the long neck was found at a Greek cemetery site but was probably not made in Greece. Like the other phial in this box, it is most likely a piece of Cypriote or Roman redware designed to hold perfume. Again, it is a good example of goods being traded *into* Greece.

