



Type: Bronze statue of a charioteer
Findspot: Delphi (Greece)
Chronology: 478 or 474 BC
Actual location: Museum of Delphi
Website: <https://ancient-greece.org/art/charioteer.html>

The bronze statue shows what remains of a sculptural group that must have originally incorporated the chariot and at least four horses. The inscription at the base of the statue states that it was set up by the tyrant Polyzalus of Gela (Sicily) as a tribute to Apollo, likely to commemorate his victory in the Pythian Games that were held at Delphi every four years. The monument was therefore dedicated either in 478 or in 474 BC. The colony of Gela was founded by around 688 BC by colonists from Rhodes and Crete. The statue dedicated at Delphi by the tyrant of Gela is an excellent example of the strong cultural and political ties that Greek colonies kept with their motherland even after centuries from their foundation.

Some aspects relating to the relationship between Greek colonies and continental Greece to further develop in your research may be:

- Participation in the Olympic games and Panhellenic festivals (see the example provided)
- Links established between a Greek colony and its putative, mythical founder
- Cults associated with the foundation of the colony (for example, cults of gods and goddesses associated with colonialism, cults of a heroized founder, cults associated with the nominal mother city)
- Adoption of the linguistic dialect and form of script used by the assumed mother city

MY RESEARCH

What kind of role had Delphi in ancient Greek colonialism?