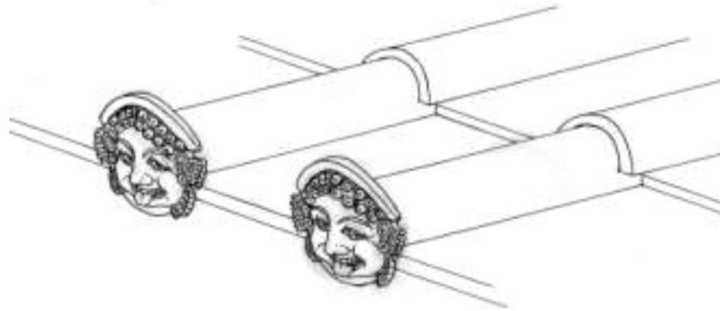


What is an antefix?

An antefix covered the end of the tiles on the roof of a Greek temple.

There would be a row of antefixes on each side of the temple roof.



What does a Gorgon look like?

- Fierce and frightening
- Snakes for hair
- Big staring eyes
- Tongue sticking out
- Big teeth and sometimes fangs

Why a Gorgon?

The Gorgon was thought to be apotropaic.

That means it protected the temple from evil because it was so frightening.



This clay Gorgon antefix comes from a temple in Sicily and is now in the Great North Museum.

It is more than 2,500 years old.



This clay Gorgon antefix also belongs to the Great North Museum (although it is not on display). You can see that it is a bit broken, one ear and all of the hair are missing, but look at the fangs!

It comes from Etruria (in Northern Italy). The Etruscans copied the Gorgon from Greek myth. It is more than 2,500 years old too.