**Children and Choes**

**POWERPOINT NOTES**

1. The chous is a small jug which was usually associated with children in ancient Greece. The word chous is pronounced ‘koo-s’. The image shows a child seated on a stool with a roller or cart to his right. His is holding something that may be a cake.
2. The image shows the outline of a chous in profile. A chous is a specific type of jug with a squat shape and a trefoil mouth, which has the appearance of a three-part leaf. They would probably be used to pour water or wine. Choes, especially small examples measuring between 5-20cm in height, seem to have been used by children and are very often decorated with scenes showing children doing a variety of things including crawling and playing with toys and animals. To date, more than 1000 examples have been found from across the Greek world, though they are most common in Athens and on the Attica peninsula. They were especially popular – and were the most common type of jug – from 450 to 400 BC.
3. Title slide
4. Babies are often shown on choes. They typically have a restricted range of gestures and it can be difficult to ascertain whether they are male or female. The baby on the left is seated in a high chair and is waving a rattle. There is a chous to the left and a roller to the right. The example to the right shows a crawling child wearing a string of amulets. What do you think these are for? They were used to protect babies and young children in ancient Greece, because they got poorly and died a lot more frequently then than they do now.
5. Children are often shown with animals on choes, these are typically thought to be pets but there are some unusual examples, including tigers. Birds and dogs seem to be the most common companions. The example to the left shows a boy riding a fawn towards another boy holding a chous. The one to the right shows a number of boys playing with a goat. The goat is painted white.

7. Children are often shown with toys on choes. These toys include carts or rollers: it can often be difficult to distinguish between the two, though carts tend to be shown with older children and roller with younger children and babies. The example to the left shows two children pulling a cart with another child inside it. The child in the cart seems to hold a stick. The example on the right shows an animal pulling a cart with a child riding inside it.

8. This child is shown with a roller, which are often shown with younger children and were probably used in learning to walk. Children still use rollers today to help them when they are learning to walk. The ruler to the side demonstrates that these vessels were often very small.

9. Children are also often seen with cakes in scenes on choes. This may be because they were associated with use in a special festival. This example shows two children ‘laying a table’. The child on the right has the cake in his hand, which he seems to be about to place on the small table on which his companion is leaning.

10. Children, especially younger children, often wear amulets when they are depicted on painted pottery. They are seen here draped across the chest of the child, going under the armpit. Amulets could be made from a variety of materials, including preciously metals.

11. Title slide

12. Choes were probably used for a number of purposes. They are excavated in some children’s graves and so can certainly be considered ‘grave goods’ to some extent, but it is likely that they were also used by living children. They are typically associated with the Anthesteria festival, which was a festival that was associated with the god Dionysus and new wine. The festival lasted for three days and on the second day, ancient sources tell us, children in their third year were allowed their first drink of wine. It is possible that wine was stored in choes that were also gifts to the children. However, because many are decorated with scenes of day-to-day life and play, it is possible that they were also used as everyday-type vessels or even used as toys, given their size.

13. Here are some examples of choes we have seen so far, for inspiration when decorating the chous templates. **Now design a chous**