**Women in the Household**

**POWERPOINT NOTES**

1. Women spent most of their time inside the house. What do you think were the most important jobs women had to do? We are going to look at what women did in Ancient Greece.
2. Of course women would have lots of housework to do. They would have to do the cooking, washing up and wash the clothes.

What do you think is happening in these pictures?

* Washing clothes? (no washing machines!)
* Cooking (on a portable brazier)
* Collecting water from the fountain house (all the water would have to be got from the fountain or a well)

**Click for labels to appear**

One job wives did **not** do was the shopping. Why do you think they did not go shopping? (wives were supposed to stay in the house - apart from trips to the fountain house)

1. Making clothes was the most important job that women had to do. This would take up a lot of time.
* First they had to get the wool ready. Look at the picture on the left – what do you think the woman is doing.

**Click for labels to appear**

* On the floor beside her is a basket full of wool. She has a special pot over her leg called an epinetron (e pin et tron). She uses this to comb out the wool so it is ready for spinning.
* What is the woman in the middle picture doing? (spinning the wool). Can you remember the name of the little round stone which is on the end of the spindle?

**Click for labels to appear**

* Look at the last picture. Once the wool is prepared into balls what happens next? (weaving). Can you remember what the things hanging on the end of the threads are called?

**Click for labels to appear**

Loom weights often got lost and are found in houses by archaeologists – they help to show us what rooms in the house women were using for their work.

1. What other jobs do you think women had to do?
* Looking after children was another important job for women. Look at the pictures what do you notice. The children shown are both naked and they are both boys. The painters are not always very good at drawing children. The crawling toddler does not really look like a child.
* What else can you see in these pictures? A wool basket on the ground beside the seated woman. What do you think is hanging between the mum and dad on the second picture? It is a sakkos – a headscarf worn by women.
* What was the little pot used for? (feeding babies) The baby or toddler would have sucked on the spout – sometimes there are little teeth marks around the spout.
1. What do you think is happening in this picture?
* What is the woman on the left holding? (mirror)

**Click for labels to appear**

* What do you think the seated woman is holding? (necklace)

**Click for labels to appear**

* Who is the little winged figure on her knee? (Eros)

**Click for labels to appear**

The top of this pot is broken but it would once have contained perfume. How is this picture suited to the contents of the pot?

1. There are some pictures which show women reading or playing musical instruments. We do not know if these women are meant to be goddesses or mythical figures. Do you think that women in an ancient Greek house would have had much time for reading and music?
2. Now we are going to look very closely at a pot in the Great North Museum which has a picture of women in the house. What is it called when we ‘read’ an image? (Iconography).

This pot is shaped a bit like a wool basket but it is quite small so it is unlikely it would have been used to keep wool in. We do not know what this pot was used for. What do you think it might have been used for?

1. Here is a picture which shows the image which goes around the pot. We are going to look at what the women are doing in the picture.
* Look at the first two women – what are they holding?

**Click for labels to appear**

* The first woman holds a wool basket. This is not a pot but an actual basket.
* The second woman holds a little frame for weaving. Belts and head scarves could be made on this frame.
1. What do you think the two objects hanging up at either end are?

**Click for labels to appear**

* These are bits of material – probably belts or hair bands.
1. What do you notice about the middle two women?

**Click for labels to appear**

* Women would have been veiled when they got married but also when they went outside the house.
* The other woman is getting dressed, she is tying her belt. She wears a head scarf (sakkos).
1. Looking at the last two women.
* What do you think the seated woman is doing? What is she holding?

**Click for labels to appear**

* She is holding a mirror. Mirrors would have been made of polished bronze. This example from the Great North Museum would once have had a handle of bone or wood.
* The final woman holds two objects. She is smaller than the other women and has short hair. She might be a servant. What do you think she is holding?

**Click for labels to appear**

* She holds perfume pots.
1. There are a couple more things hanging up. Can you guess what they are?
* The first is a container for knucklebones – knucklebones were used for playing a game. Do you remember we looked at a bronze knucklebone when we were thinking about what things were made of.

**Click for labels to appear**

* There are two more little things hanging up – they are a pair of castanets.

**Click for labels to appear**

This picture shows us women in the house surrounded by the objects they would have used in their daily life.

**Now try the Painted Pottery Fragment activity**