**Greek Temples**

**POWERPOINT NOTES**

1. Temples are found everywhere in the Greek World.
2. The most famous Greek temple is the Parthenon (completed in 438 BC). This temple, dedicated to Athena, is on the Acropolis of Athens. The Acropolis is a large, rocky hill in the centre of Athens.
3. Temples were constructed to house the cult statue of the god or goddess the temple was built for. Most temples were seen as houses to the gods and a statue inside symbolised the presence of the god within the temple. These examples are:
* Reconstruction of the statue of Athena from the Parthenon.
* Statue of Apollo inside a temple from a Greek painted pot.
* Reconstruction of the statue of Zeus from the temple of Zeus at Olympia.

Temples were not places of worship like churches – religious activity took place outside around the altar.

1. Many Greek temples shared similar architectural elements, including a pediment, columns and a frieze. Along the sides of temples at the edge of the roof tiles, there would be decorative antefixes like this one of a Gorgon in the Great North Museum. Greek temples were built on a platform (stylobate).
2. The interior of the temple was often divided into three sections: the cella or naos where the statue of the god would be located, the pronaos (front porch) and opisthodomos (rear porch). The interior was surrounded by a colonnade (peristyle) on all four sides.
3. There are three main types of columns on Greek temples.
4. The Doric ‘order’. Doric columns have a very plain capital (top). The Doric frieze consists of distinctive elements referred to as triglyphs, metopes and guttae. This example is from the Hephaisteion, a temple to the god Hephaistos in Athens.
5. Ionic ‘order’. The distinctive curled elements on the Ionic column capital are called volutes.
6. The Corinthian ‘order’. The column capitals are decorated with acanthus leaves.

**This PowerPoint complements the walking tour and Moot Hall activity sheet**

**Now try the making a Greek building collage activity or the making a Gorgon antefix activity**