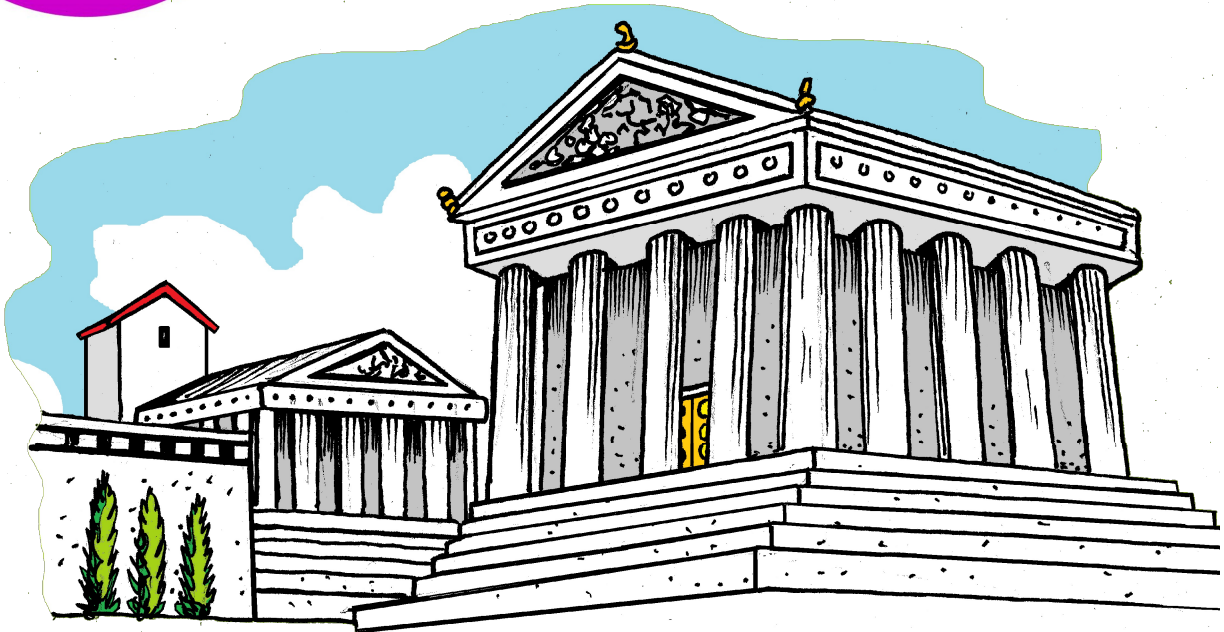




HISTORY BITES

LITTLE NIBBLES OF HISTORY

Where did democracy begin?



In 510 BC the Athenians overthrew their tyrant King Hippias, with the help of Cleomenes I, King of Sparta. Naturally, he tried to put his own man on the throne, and he chose Isagoras.

However, Cleisthenes, an Athenian lawyer, who was supported by the middle class and basically most of the population, opposed him. Isagoras asked Cleomenes I, to support him. Interestingly, Cleomenes had had an affair with Isagoras' wife. Anyway, he bought 300 troops with him to help expel Cleisthenes.

Cleisthenes, along with the citizens of Athens, trapped them along with their troops on the Acropolis for two days. On day three a truce was agreed, allowing Cleomenes and Isagoras to escape, but they executed their supporters.

Cleisthenes then returned to Athens to become chief magistrate and started developing democracy. His plan was that 10,000 citizens should all exercise their power as members of the assembly. However, that proved impractical, so they appointed a council of 500 Athens citizens chosen by lot. Of course, everybody wasn't included in the lottery.

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HISTORY BITES

LITTLE NIBBLES OF HISTORY

Where did democracy begin?

In order to vote, you had to be a citizen.

However, not everyone who lived in Athens was a citizen, to be counted as a citizen you had to be a man over 30 who had completed military service.

Then they realized corruption was occurring, and they came up with a novel idea of what to do with rotten council members, they developed "Ostracism". They left an urn outside the council chamber, then citizens could scratch a name onto a piece of pottery and put it in the urn. Then when the urn was full they counted the names and the biggest name was ostracised for 10 years. Isn't that clever? It took us several thousand year to come to something similar!

This eventually grew into the democracy we have today, in fact the founding fathers of the USA used it when they were writing the constitution, even more the Capital Building in Washington was inspired by Greek democracy and architecture.

The birth of democracy is explained in our musical

Athens - The Birth of Democracy.

To perform it click on

<https://eml.coolski.co.uk/index.php/product/athens-the-birth-of-democracy/>

where you will be able to read two pages of script, listen to two songs from the show and then download it so you can start rehearsing immediately!

Isn't history fun?

For more information on the start of Democracy in Greece please go to

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/democracy/Democratic-institutions#ref796495>

<https://www.athensguide.com/journalists/articles/lottery.htm>

<https://gradesix.mrpolsky.com/ewExternalFiles/Ch3-DemocracyInAncientAthens.pdf>

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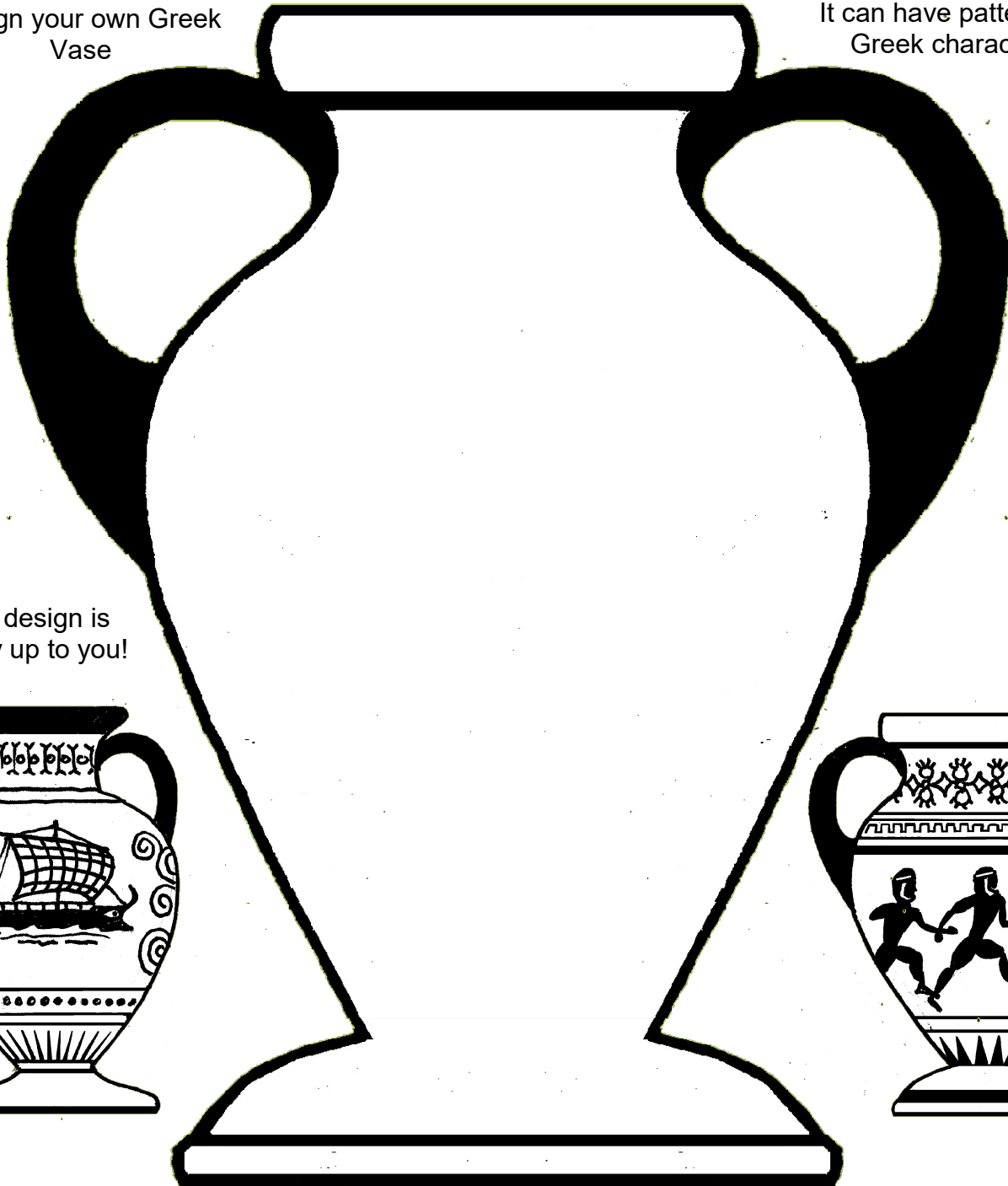
HISTORY BITES

LITTLE NIBBLES OF HISTORY

1 lesson CLASSROOM ACTIVITY DESIGN A GREEK VASE

Design your own Greek Vase

It can have patterns or Greek characters



The design is totally up to you!



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