



# Educational Guide



## Inside:

*Discussion Questions*

*Resources*

*Activity: Design a doll*

*Activity: Paper doll*

*Activity: Colouring sheets*

*Craft: Design your own doll*



## Ancient Dolls

This education pack is focused on 'dolls' from the ancient world.

Use this education guide to interact with the exhibit 'Girls and Dolls' and gain a deeper understanding of what part dolls have played in the lives of children throughout time.

Activities in this guide are aligned to U.S. and/or U.K. educational standards. They are designed to be used by students and teachers as school lessons or enrichment opportunities.

# Discussion Questions

*Students can answer the following questions on their own or discuss in groups.*

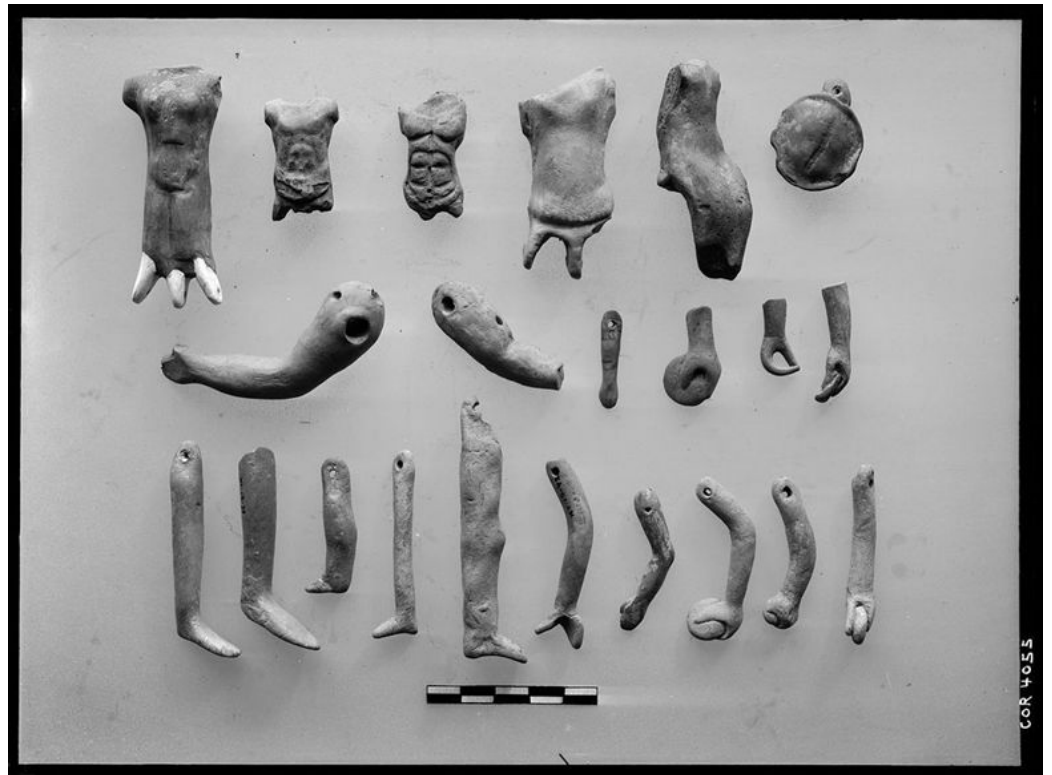


1. What is a 'doll'? (Can you think of different types of dolls?)
2. Who plays with dolls and why?
3. What do you think ancient dolls might have looked like?  
(Use the pictures above to give you a clue!)
4. In what ways do you think ancient dolls were different from modern dolls? (Think about how they look, what they are made from, and how they can be used.)

## Resource: Dolls – not just for girls!?



Along with the large number of ‘dolls’ archaeologists have found that look like girls from the ancient world, they have found some that look like boys too.



These objects were found in a potter’s workshop on the Greek island of Corinth.  
Image source: ASCSA Digital Collections, Corinth Image: bw 4055: Jointed dolls

### Educational Standards

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.4**  
Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.2**  
Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

We are not sure if these objects were all used as toys, or even if they were all used by children, but it is possible that boys as well as girls played with dolls in the ancient world.

If you think about it, many children play with dolls today. Even if you don’t play with Barbies, you might play with other toy figures, Lego figurines, or play as a virtual character as part of a video game that imitates real life. So in a way, many children play with ‘dolls’ and use them to learn about the world around them.

*Answer the following questions:*

*Could any of your (old) toys be called ‘dolls’? Why?*

*What do you think makes a doll a doll?*

## Resource: interesting objects!

All of these 'dolls' are from ancient Greece. How do you think they were used by ancient Greek children?



Image: © 2017 Trustees of the British Museum.

This 'doll' from ancient Greece is on display in the British Museum in London, England.

It sits on a miniature throne and was found with a miniature pair of boots and other miniature objects.

- Does this remind you of any of your toys?



Photograph by Daniella Briscoe-Peaple

Here is a 'doll and doll's crockery' which is on display in the Altes museum in Berlin.

- Why do you think ancient doll makers also made miniature objects for these dolls?



Image: © 2017 Trustees of the British Museum

This is a 'toy' that was found in a grave from a place called Papatislures, which was on the island of Rhodes in ancient Greece. This object is also in the collection of the British Museum.

- What do you think the figure is doing? Would you call this a doll?

### Educational Standards

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.4**  
Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.2**  
Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.





## Resource: writing about dolls!

In addition to physical objects, we also have a small number of poems written by people in the ancient world that mention dolls. Below are three epigrams (short poems) which describe children or young people dedicating their toys to a god or goddess as they grow up. Historians would say that this is part of a 'coming of age' ritual.

*Read the epigrams below. What can they tell us about the relationship between children and their toys in the ancient world?*

### Educational Standards

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.2**  
Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1**  
Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.

Τιμαρέτα πρὸ γάμοιο τὰ τύμπανα, τὴν τ'  
ἐρατεινὴν σφαῖραν, τὸν τε κόμας ῥύτορα  
κεκρύφαλον, τὰς τε κόρας, Λιμναῖτι, κόρα  
κόρα, ὡς ἐπιεικές, ἄνθετο, καὶ τὰ κορὰν  
ἐνδύματ', Ἀρτέμιδι. Λατώα, τὴ δὲ παιδὸς  
ὑπὲρ χέρα Τιμαρετείαςθηκαμένα, σώζοις  
τὰν ὅσιν ὅσιν.

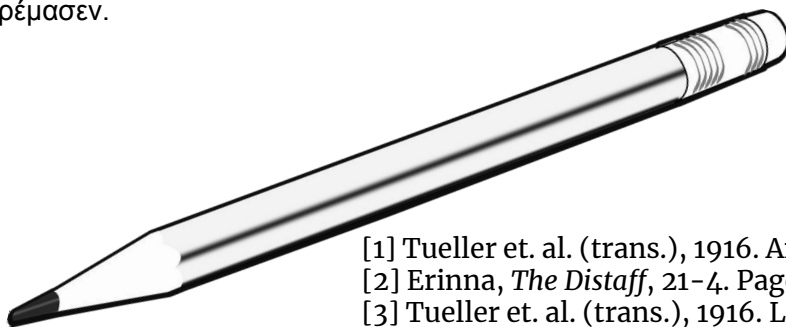
Timareta, the daughter of Timaretus,  
before her wedding, hath dedicated to  
thee, Artemis of the lake, her  
tambourine and her pretty ball, and  
the caul that kept up her hair, and her  
dolls, too, and their dresses; a  
virgin's gift, as is fit, to virgin Dian.  
But, daughter of Leto, hold thy hand  
over the girl, and purely keep her in  
her purity.

δαγύ[δ]ων τ' ἐχ[όμεσθα νεαν]ίδες ἐν  
θαλάμοισι νύμ[φαι]σιν [προσόμοιοι ἀκηδ]  
έες· ἅ τε πὸτ ὄρθρον μάτηρ, ἃ ἔ[ριον  
νέμεν ἀμφιπόλ]οισιν ἐρίθοις, τήνα σ' ἦλθ  
[ε κρέας προκαλευμέ]να ἀμφ' ἀλίπαστον.

We clung to our dolls in our chambers  
when we were girls, playing Young  
Wives, without a care. And towards  
dawn your Mother, who allotted wool  
to her attendant workwomen, came  
and called you to help with the salted  
meat.

Εὐφημόν τοισφαῖραν, εὐκρόταλόν τε  
Φιλοκλῆς Ἑρμείη ταύτην πυξινέην  
πλατάγην,  
ἀστραγάλας θ' αἷς πόλλ' ἐπεμήνατο, καὶ  
τὸν ἐλικτὸν ῥόμβον, κουροσύνης παίγνι'  
ἀνεκρέμασεν.

To Hermes Philocles here hangs up  
these toys of his boyhood: his  
noiseless ball, this lively boxwood  
rattle, his knuckle-bones he had such  
a mania for, and his spinning-top.



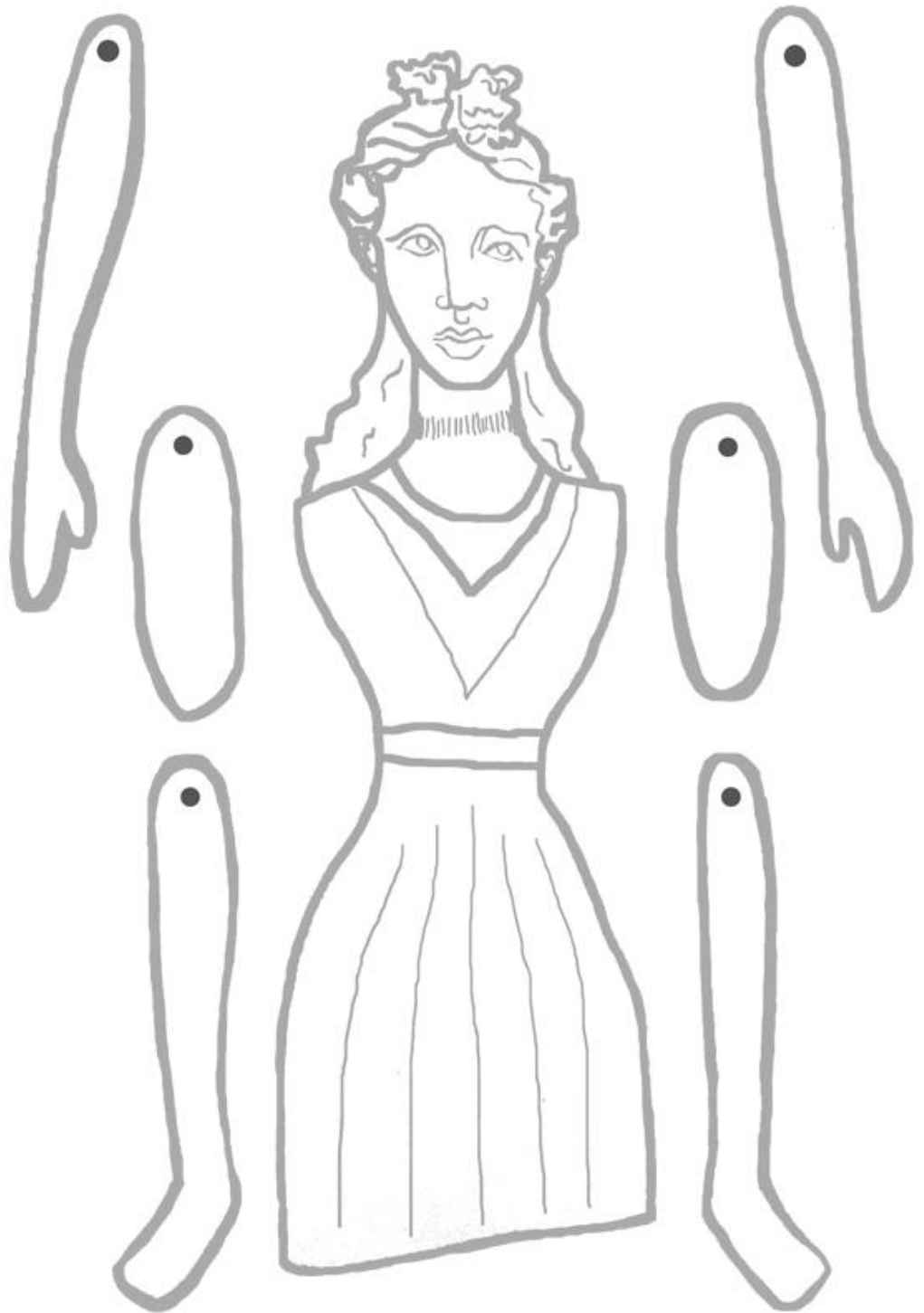
[1] Tueller et. al. (trans.), 1916. Anonymous, 280.

[2] Erinna, *The Distaff*, 21-4. Page (trans.), 1941.

[3] Tueller et. al. (trans.), 1916. Leonidas, 309.

## Activity: Make an ancient paper doll!

To make this doll, you will need to cut out the individual pieces with scissors and then join them together using string, pins, or metal brads. (Like an ancient doll maker!)



### Educational Standards

National Core Art Standards  
Visual Arts Anchor  
Standard 1  
Investigate, Plan, Make.

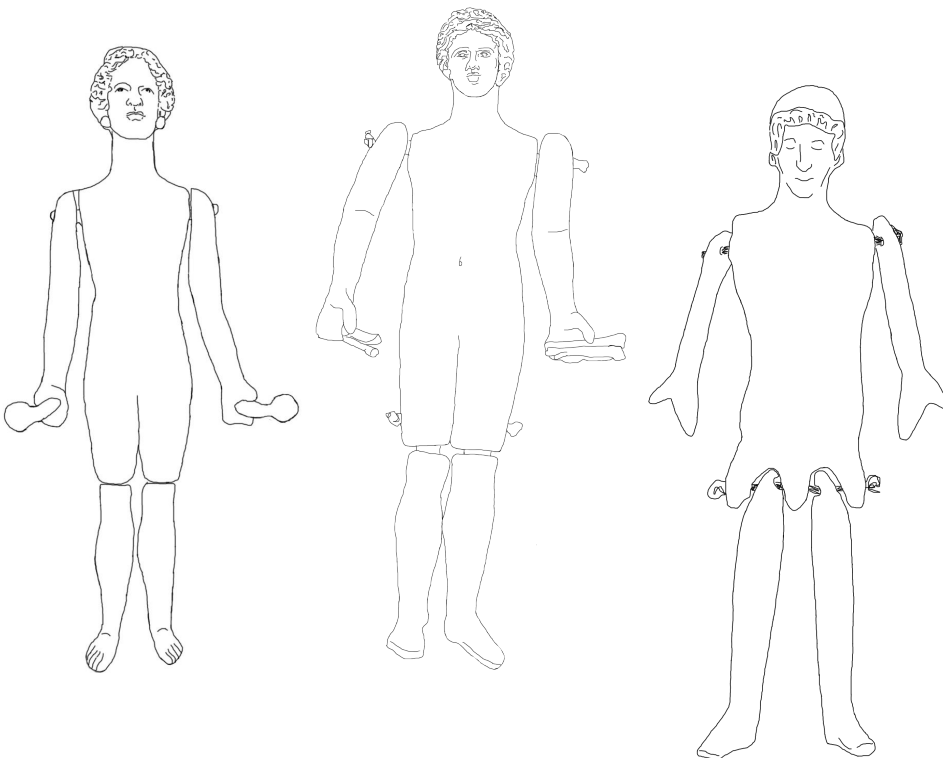
## Activity: Colouring sheets

Ancient dolls were often painted in bright colours, dressed in miniature clothing and sometimes adorned with jewellery. Some children even had small objects for their dolls such as treasure chests - they would hang the key around their doll's neck for safe keeping!

Your task is to colour in the dolls below.

If you like, you can draw on clothes and give them objects that you think children or adults might have had in ancient times.

These colouring sheets for 'Girls and Dolls' exhibition can be downloaded from the Girl Museum website.



### Educational Standards

National Core Art Standards  
Visual Arts Anchor  
Standard 1  
Investigate, Plan, Make.

# Girl Museum

We are the first and only online museum dedicated to girls.

We exhibit, educate, and raise awareness about the unique experience of being born and growing up female around the world in the past and present.

As a community of passionate and creative individuals, we acknowledge and advocate for girls as forces for collective responsibility and change in the global context, not as victims and consumers.

We are a registered 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization.

Learn more and get involved at [www.GirlMuseum.org](http://www.GirlMuseum.org)



© 2019 by Girl Museum, Inc.

## *Activity: Design Your Own Doll*

### Educational Standards

National Core Art Standards  
Visual Arts Anchor  
Standard 1  
Investigate, Plan, Make.

Dolls are simply inanimate objects that we bring to life with our imaginations. Dolls can be made out of almost anything, even a stick or a pebble with a face drawn on it.

Dolls, like many toys, are used by children as a way to explore the world around them and to make sense of their place in it. Over the centuries, people have made dolls out of many different materials, from dried apples to ivory and gold.

If you could create your very own ancient 'doll' from scratch, what would it be made of and what would it look like? Remember, a doll can be made out of anything and look like anything you want, so think outside the box!