Greek Columns

If you're studying Ancient Greece, this hands-on lesson will illustrate the differences in the three classical orders of Greek architecture: Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian. These styles were revived in the early days of American architecture and are seen on many public buildings throughout our country.

Supplies:

- Modeling Clay, such as *Klean Klay*, in various colors
- Wax Paper
- Sculpting Tools (or you may use craft stick, butter knives, toothpicks, dowels, etc.)
- Photo images of Greek Columns. Print from websites below:
  - Boston College
  - Encyclopedie
  - Charlotte Mecklenburg Historic Landmark Commission

Lesson:

The ancient Greeks used three main "orders" of design in the columns and facades of their buildings. The Greeks worshipped the human body and designed their orders after the body of a man, a woman, and a young maiden. See below.

Doric	Ionic	Corinthian

• Straight Lines • Represents a man's physique.	• Curved Line • Represents a woman's physique.	• Delicate curved lines with leaves as embellishment. • Represents a young maiden.

More information:

Visit the following websites for more in-depth information about these three orders:

- Three Classical Orders
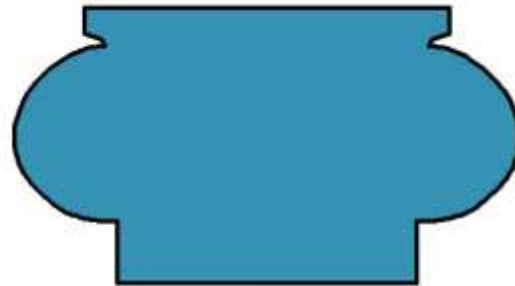- Free Ancient Greece PowerPoint Presentations
- Wikipedia: Classical Orders

Project:

Using modeling clay and sculpting tools, create reproductions of the various orders of Greek columns. Younger students should try a close up of the top part. Older students may enjoy creating the entire column. Students can be creative by using different colored clays.

Directions:

1.Lay out a piece of wax paper.

2. Choose a base color and create a flat shape for the base. Use a butter knife to carve out this shape.

3. Using other colors of clay, add embellishments to the base. Be sure to use a photo reference of the type of column you are creating.

Student Examples:

Entire Doric Column by Noah Bauch, age 12	Entire Corinthian Column by Jo Bauch, age 13	Close-up of Corinthian Column by Jo Bauch

Tops of Ionic Columns:

David Bauch - age 8	Emily Forberg - age 9

Dotty Forberg - adult

Maggie Forberg - age 12