

Artistic Problem Solving

The use of figural and patterned decoration on Greek pottery thrived from about 700 BCE to around 320 BCE. Throughout these centuries, Greek pottery painters spent time problem solving different ways to represent three-dimensional objects and figures on a flat or curved surface.

Compare the details of soldiers and horses from two different Greek pots. Describe the positions of the horses, the figures, and other objects in the scene. How did each artist use repetition, space, scale, and overlapping? Which one do you think best represents three-dimensional figures? Why?



Column Krater, with Battle and Procession, 575 BCE



Neck Amphora: Scene with Apollo, Leto, and Artemis and a Departure Scene, c. 540-530 BCE

What are other ways of creating space using repetition and overlapping of figures in a scene?

On the back of this page or on another piece of paper, make your own drawing of a scene with figures or objects that repeat and overlap to create space and show action. Consider the scale of the figures and objects, their placement within the scene, the use of overlapping, and the balance of the composition.

Research opportunity: Find works of art, from ancient to modern times, that demonstrate ways artists have created a three-dimensional space on a flat surface. Consider how artists use the [elements of art](#) (i.e. color, line) and [principles of design](#) (i.e. repetition, emphasis).