GREEK ART

Around 450 B.C., the Athenian general \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_began using tax dollars to support the city-state’s artists and thinkers. Most of all, Pericles paid artisans to build temples and other public buildings in the city of Athens.

The most noteworthy result of Pericles’ public-works campaign was the magnificent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a temple in honor of the city’s patron goddess Athena. With its rectangular stone platform, front and back porches (the pronaos and the opisthodomos) and rows of columns, the Parthenon was a commanding example of Greek temple architecture. Typically, the people of ancient Greece did not worship inside their temples as we do today. Instead, the interior room (the naos or the cella) was relatively small, housing just a statue of the deity the temple was built to honor. Worshippers gathered outside, entering only to bring offerings to the statue.

Not many classical statues or sculptures survive today. (Stone statues broke easily, and metal ones were often melted for re-use.) However, we know that sculptors such as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the 5th century and had figured out how to apply the rules of anatomy and perspective to the human form just as their counterparts applied them to buildings. Earlier statues of people had looked awkward and fake, but by the classical period they looked natural, almost at ease. They even had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ facial expressions.

Classical Greek pottery was perhaps the most utilitarian of the era’s art forms. People offered small \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ figurines as gifts to gods and goddesses, buried them with the dead and gave them to their children as toys. They also used clay pots, jars and vases for almost everything. These were painted with religious or mythological scenes that, like the era’s statues, grew more sophisticated and realistic over time.

Much of our knowledge of classical Greek art comes from objects made of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that have survived for thousands of years. However, we can infer that the themes we see in these works–an emphasis on pattern and order, perspective and proportion, and man himself–appeared as well in less-durable creations such as drawings and paintings.