

Great Teachers Long Ago

Head of Aphrodite



The people of ancient Greece believed in the powers of a variety of gods. This sculpture shows Aphrodite, the goddess of love.

Red-figure Kylix

Great Teachers Long Ago
by Mary Erickson



In their Olympic Games, ancient Greeks celebrated the physical abilities of people. This vessel shows a young athlete.

Black-Figure Neck Amphora



Greek gods were a lot like people. It was important to please them. This oil or wine vessel shows Poseidon, the god of the sea, driving a chariot.



Zeus



The ancient Greeks believed that Zeus created the world. Here we see him with an eagle in one hand and a thunderbolt in the other.



Head of a Bearded Man



The teachings of three Greeks, Plato (428 - 348 BCE), Socrates (470/469 - 399 BCE) and Aristotle (334 - 322 BCE) set the philosophical foundations of Western Civilization.



Standing Buddha



in 326 BCE, Alexander the Great conquered lands as Far East as eastern India, now Pakistan. He brought with him Greek sculptural Ideas that influenced sculpture in India, such as this figure of Buddha.



Standing Buddha



Although the Buddha was born in India, his teaching became important in China. This Chinese sculpture shows influence of earlier Indian Buddhist sculpture.

Buddha taught that peace can come from meditation -- being in the here and now, not distracted by thoughts of the past or future.



Listening to the Waterfall

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by Mary Erickson



About the same time as Buddha (563 - 483 BCE) was teaching in India, two important thinkers, Lao Tzu and Confucius, were teaching in China.

Lao Tse (c. 570-498 BCE) taught that if one could clear one's mind, one could become open to "the way" (the Dao). Some believe that Confucius (551-479 BCE) learned from Lao Tzu, who inspired his ideas about how people should relate to each other within a system of hierarchy and respect.

Landscape at P'ing-shan Pavilion

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In Daoist art, people do not conquer or control nature but live in harmony within it.

Can you find the two men and the building in this painting?
You may need to zoom in to find them.



Misty River and Layered Peaks

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by Mary Erickson



If you zoom in very close to this painting you can also see two men and a building.



Swan and Cygnets

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Chinese art often celebrates things in nature, like this swan with her baby riding on her back.

Chestnuts

Or this branch with seed pods.

