

# SCULPTURE

The ancient Greeks carved some of the finest sculptures ever made. They set a standard for the portrayal of the human body that has been imitated and admired ever since. Many of the original sculptures were lost, or carried off by invaders at the end of the Classical era. But we know what many of them were like, because the Romans made thousands of copies that still survive (see page 340).

The features on this Archaic Period limestone head look quite Eastern.



To decorate their temples, the Greeks carved figures and mythological scenes, known as reliefs, on flat slabs of stone. This one shows the gods Poseidon and Apollo and the goddesses Artemis and Athena.

## ARCHAIC PERIOD c.800-480BC

Early sculptures were carved in a simple, formal style, copied from Egyptian art (see page 93). Figures stood stiffly, with the left leg forward and the arms at the side. The face was carved with a half-smile. There were two main types: a male nude, called a *kouros*, and a clothed female, called a *kore*.

Later sculptors began carving figures in more relaxed poses, to make them look realistic.



### INTERNET LINK

For links to websites where you can see lots of Greek sculptures and explore a timeline, go to [www.usborne-quicklinks.com](http://www.usborne-quicklinks.com)



A statue of an Egyptian queen



The figure of a young woman, or *kore*, on the left is from Greece, c.650BC.

If you compare it with the figure above, you may notice her hairstyle looks Egyptian.