

# POTTERY

The ancient Greeks are famous for their painted pottery, often known as 'vase painting'. The amazingly detailed and varied scenes they painted on their pottery have given us an enormous amount of information about their daily lives and their myths and legends.

## GEOMETRIC STYLE

From about 1000-700BC, during the Dark Ages, Greek pots were decorated with zigzag and geometric patterns. Later in this period, figures of animals and people began to be added to the designs, painted in between the bands of geometric decoration.



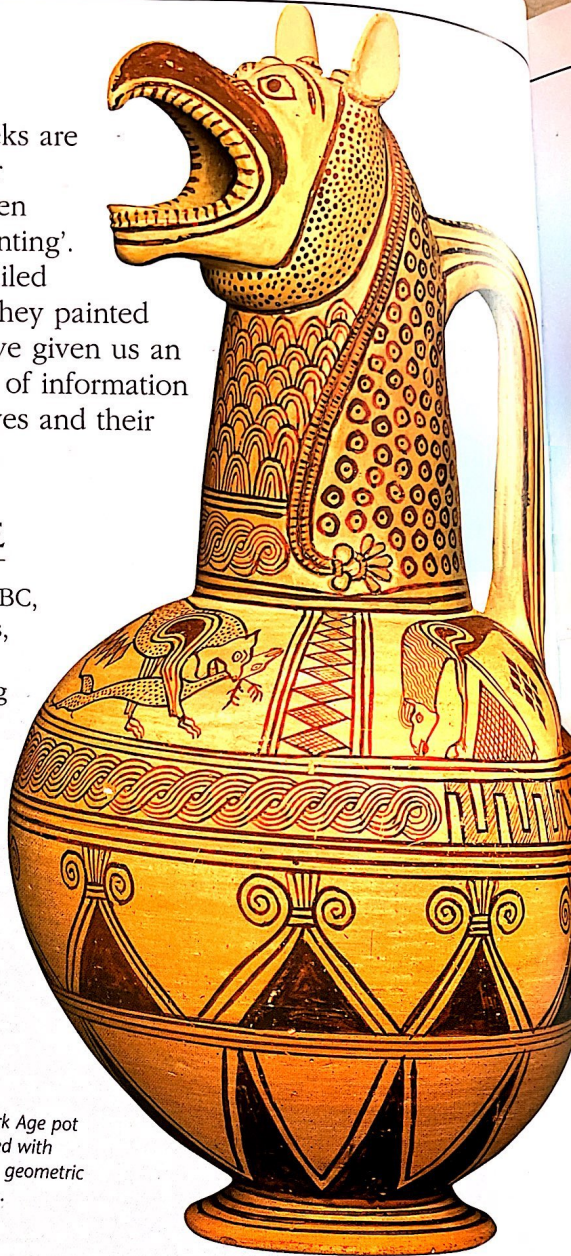
*This Dark Age pot is painted with intricate geometric patterns.*

## ORIENTAL STYLE

From about 720 to 550BC, contacts with foreigners, such as the Egyptians, led to what is called the "Orientalizing" style. Many designs included motifs, such as lotuses, palms and mythical monsters, that

*This animal-headed jug dates back to about 600BC.*

were common in Egyptian art. Later in the period, scenes from Greek mythology and daily life started to appear on pots. The figures were also more detailed and realistic than they had been earlier.



*Greek pots came in many different shapes. Here are the most common styles.*

*The first three pots shown here were drinking cups used at parties.*

*Kraters were large two-handed pots for mixing wine with water. The two main types were calyx kraters and volute kraters (with spiral handles).*

*The wine and water mixture was then poured into a jug known as an oinochoe. It was then poured into cups to drink.*