

## Create a vase design for Josiah Wedgwood's fashionable showroom in Bath!

Draw, paint, colour or collage a new Wedgwood vase taking inspiration from ancient Greek and Roman worlds. The Georgian ladies and gentlemen visiting Bath are looking for an 'antique' ceramic vase to display in their grand country houses – can you help?



Jasperware Vases,  
Josiah Wedgwood,  
c.1770–80's,  
Holburne Museum

These vases were made in Josiah Wedgwood's Etruria ceramics factory near Hanley in Staffordshire.

### How were they made?

The vases were turned on a potter's wheel and decorated with tiny relief ornaments, made in separate moulds and carefully stuck on with slip (diluted clay). This process is called sprigging. To see a short video showing how jasperware is made today see [www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5cCm7j2Ks](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5cCm7j2Ks)

### What were Wedgwood's vases used for?

These vases were usually placed on mantle-pieces, or the tops of cabinets or bookcases. They were often sold in pairs or sets of three, five or seven pieces.

### Vase madness!

The vases are decorated in the Classical style inspired by ancient Greek and Roman civilisations. Wedgwood was responding to the huge appetite for everything 'antique' which grew from new archaeological discoveries in Italy during the ... , especially the excavation of buried Roman cities such as Pompeii. Wedgwood created his designs with the help of other artists and his extensive library of books, published to illustrate classical sources.

1

### You need:-

- A4 card or paper (download and print a vase outline) OR draw your own vase outline
- Pencil and rubber
- Coloured pencils/pens
- Everyday collage materials – e.g. old magazines/coloured paper
- Glue
- Scissors

2

### Design your vase:-

- Print out a vase outline or draw your own
- Use the resources to inspire your classical design
- Add colour or collage – you don't have to copy the blue jasperware!

3

### Cut out your vase and decide where you'd like to display it in your home!

### Can you spot ...

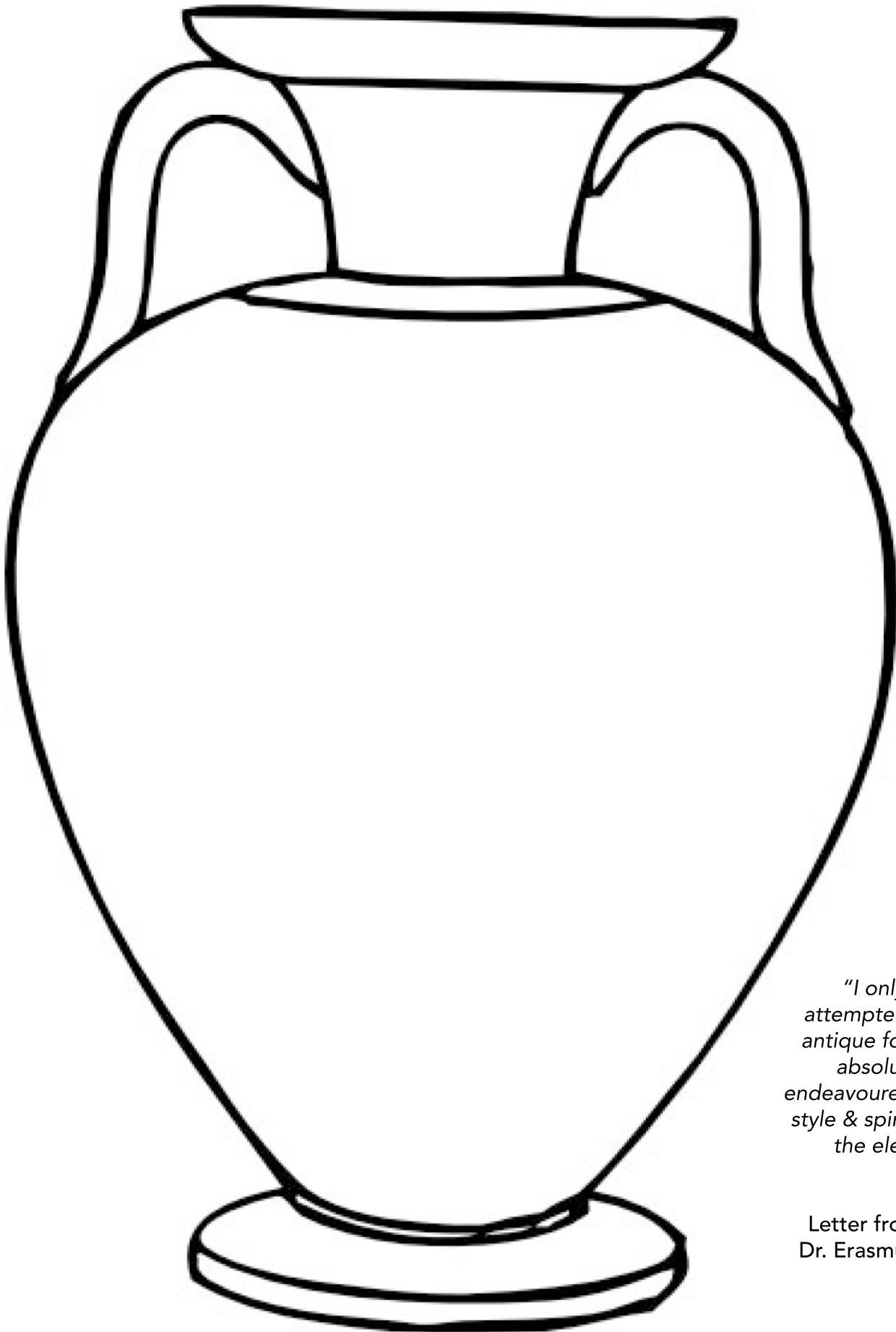
- 2 putti (winged cherub or cupid)
- A double Greek Key pattern
- A frieze of 'Vitruvian scroll' with small flowers
- Stylised olive and acanthus leaves to make a repeat pattern



Did you know that Wedgwood really did have a 'showroom' at the bottom of Milsom Street from 1774?



Print out this vase template to get you started or design your own!  
Top tip- print the template onto card for a strong base to decorate.



*"I only pretend to have attempted to copy the fine antique forms, but not with absolute servility. I have endeavoured to preserve the style & spirit or if you please the elegant simplicity of antique forms"*

Letter from Wedgwood to Dr. Erasmus Darwin in June 1789