



## Amphora

An *amphora*, such as the one at left, is a two-handed storage jar that held oil, wine, milk, or grain. Amphora was also the term for a unit of measure. Amphoras were sometimes used as grave markers or as containers for funeral offerings or human remains.

<b>Material</b>	Ceramic, a small minority in metal, rare instances in stone or glass
<b>Size</b>	Small-volume container varying from table-top size to half the height of a human, able to be carried by one or more persons.
<b>Writing</b>	Sometimes inscribed with an identifying mark, or, in the case of painted ware, the signature of the potter or artist and the names of the characters depicted in the scene.
<b>Created</b>	Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Middle Ages
<b>Discovered</b>	The sherds are ubiquitous in any type of archaeological context. The vessels were used primarily to carry wine, which was drunk by all known peoples over Eurasia from at least the Neolithic.
<b>Present location</b>	Circum-Mediterranean, Black Sea, Eurasia from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Below: Athenian *amphora* of the Iron Age, painted in the *black-figure* style, showing the goddess *Athena*. This masterpiece was designed for show, in addition to holding a fluid, most likely wine, for the dining room.



- An ancient vessel form used as a storage jar a
- A two-handed pot with a neck narrower than the body.
- There are two types of amphora: the neck amphora, in which the neck meets the body at a sharp angle;
- The one-piece amphora, in which the neck meets the body at a sharp angle;

Only men were allowed to make pots in Ancient Greece, although women were allowed to decorate them.

The first pottery was decorated with lots of geometric patterns.

The Red Figure technique was used to paint them. They were hardened in a

In Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome, **amphoras** were used to transport liquids or grain. Amphores had two handles, used for carrying. Amphores existed in different sizes, between 5 litres and 50 litres. They were made of clay, or metal.

### What is an amphora used for?

**Amphora** was one of the most common forms in Greek pottery, various shapes, always with two vertical neck-handles and **used for** storing and transporting oil, wine and foodstuffs such as olives.

### Why are Amphora pointed on the bottom?

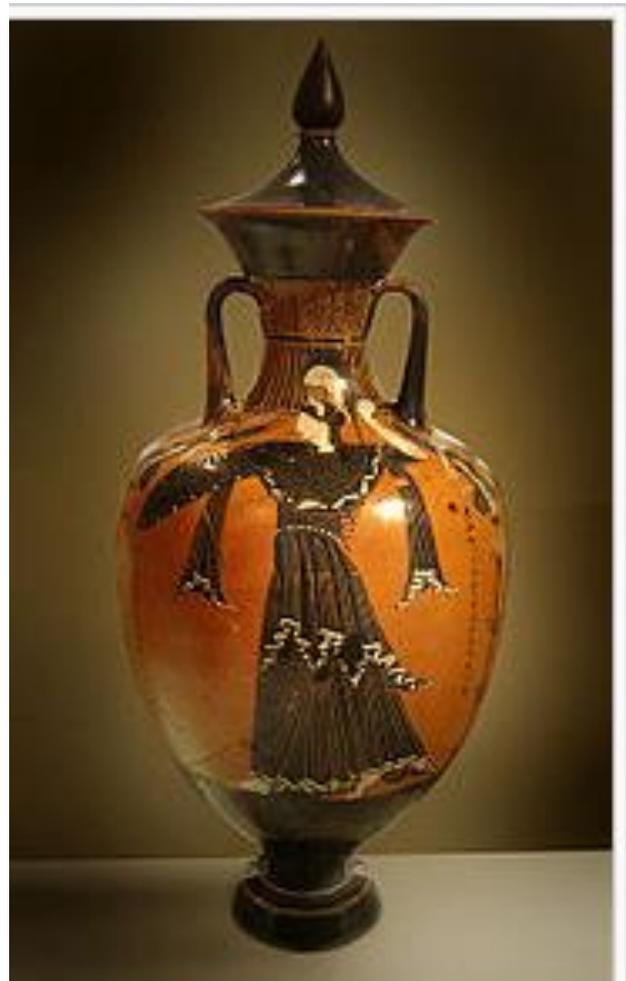
Neck **amphorae** were commonly used in the early history of ancient Greece.

Most were produced with a **pointed** base to allow upright storage by embedding in soft ground, such as sand.

### What is an amphora vase?

It is used as a storage jar and one of the main shapes in Greek **pottery**.

It is a two-handled pot with a neck narrower than the body.



Greek amphora, showing the goddess Athena