

## Station H: Sculpture (Marble Workshop)

- 1. Learn about this site.** You are at a marble workshop south of the Agora, a place where Athenian artisans create beautiful sculptures out of bronze and marble.
- 2. Read the information about sculpture, and take notes.** Carefully read and discuss the information below about Greek sculpture. Then, list three important facts about Athenian sculpture in the Station H section of **Student Handout 2.2A**.

Some of the most remarkable artistic achievements of the ancient Greeks were in the area of sculpture. Greek artists began carving life-size statues in the seventh century B.C.E. These early figures—nude males called *kourai*, and clothed females called *korai*—were strongly influenced by Egyptian styles of art. Just as the Egyptians had done, Greek sculptors created figures slightly larger than life-size in positions facing front, with arms held stiffly at the sides and the left leg forward. Artists created these works as dedicated offerings in a God's temple, or for wealthy families, who placed them at a young person's grave.

By the fifth century B.C.E., Greek sculptors began to create works that showed the human body in more realistic form and more natural postures. They created figures that depicted bodies in movement or in emotional poses. Athenian artists created brilliant marble statues of Gods and heroes that filled the Parthenon. While most sculptors worked in marble, many artists also used metal to create figures.

In the early 400s B.C.E., a new method of casting bronze allowed artists to create hollow metal figures around wooden cores rather than just solid metal ones. Using this method, artists could create much more realistic details of a figure's muscles, clothing, and hair. The new metal-casting method allowed the Athenian artist Phidias to create two of the most famous Athenian works of art: the gold and ivory statues of the Goddess Athena and the God Zeus. The statue of Athena stood inside the Parthenon. The statue of Zeus stood outside of Athens, in Olympia, and is considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

**3. Complete the task described below.**

- Carefully examine the two images of Greek sculpture.
- Quickly sketch each of the sculptures in the Station H section of **Student Handout 2.2A**.

**4. Respond to the following prompt.** Complete the statement “I think Sculpture A was created \_\_\_\_\_ (before or after) Sculpture B because \_\_\_\_\_.” on **Student Handout 2.2A**.