

Ancient Greek Pottery

Red-Figure and Black-Figure Pottery

The Ancient Greeks became experts at making **red-figure** and **black-figure** pottery.

Before the pot was completely hardened, it would be made ready for painting by polishing (rubbing it hard). The painter would then sketch the outlines of what they wanted to paint onto the pot. The outlines were coloured in using clay slip and then allowed to dry. Finally they added details like the eyes, folds in fabric and so on using a small tool with a sharp point to magically reveal the colour of the pot underneath.

But how do you tell which one is which?

Red-Figure has red figures (pictures) on and **Black-Figure** has black figures on. Look at these examples from the collections from the Museum of Archaeology at Durham University.

Can you tell which one is which?



Red-Figure or Black-Figure: Tick the correct one



Red-Figure

Black-Figure



Red-Figure

Black-Figure



Red-Figure

Black-Figure



Red-Figure

Black-Figure

