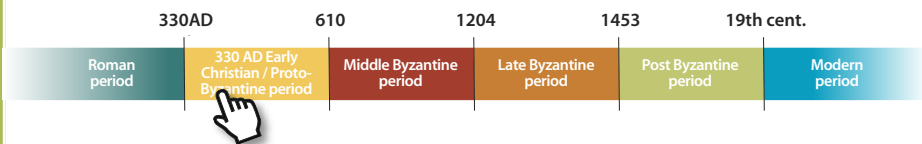


## Gallery 1 - Early Christian Churches



### Mosaic of Agios Dimitrios

#### Information

This is a part of a larger mosaic from the church of Agios Dimitrios. The rest of the mosaic was destroyed when the church burned in the Great Fire of Thessaloniki in 1917. Agios Dimitrios is depicted with open arms in a praying position.

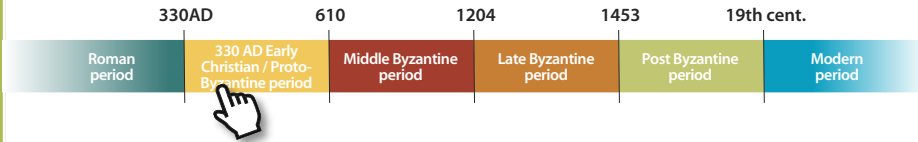
#### Instructions

- ▶ Find the mosaic of Agios Dimitrios and take a photo of it.
- ▶ Look carefully and discover two more faces which are depicted here: a child and a human figure. Take a photo of them.
- ▶ Look at the photograph on the left where you can see what the mosaic looked like before it was destroyed.
- ▶ Find one wall mosaic and one floor mosaic and take a photo of each one.
- ▶ Describe the pictures of the two mosaics you photographed.





## Gallery 2 - Early Christian City and Private Dwelling



### Mosaic floor of triclinium

#### Information

The triclinium is the formal room in wealthy houses from the Roman period. It is where gatherings took place. There is an elevated niche along one of the narrow sides, where there were three beds (klinae) for the hosts. That's why it is called a triclinium (a room with three klinae). In the rest of the room there were more beds for the guests. In this period people ate lying on beds during gatherings.

The triclinium has rich decorations with a mosaic floor and wall paintings.

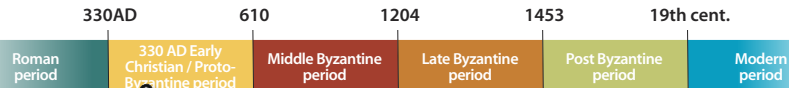
#### Instructions

- ▶ Find the mosaic and take a photo.
- ▶ Find the inscription on the floor mosaic and take a photo.
- ▶ On the inscription there are wishes for the four owners. Their names are mentioned after the word ΕΥΤΥΧΩΣ (ΕΥΧΕΒΙΩ, ΜΑΡΚΙΑ, ΕΛΛΑΔΙΤΗ ΚΑΙ ΚΛΗΜΕΝΤΙΝΗ), that is "Eusebius, Marcia, Helladitis and Clementine be happy".
- ▶ Observe the wall paintings. What drawings do they have?
- ▶ Take a photo of the part of the wall painting that impressed you the most.





## Gallery 3 - From the Elysian Fields to the Christian Paradise



### Vaulted tomb

#### Information

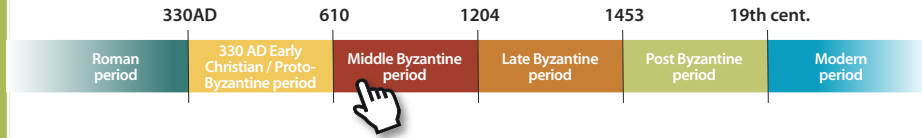
This is a type of tomb for the wealthy. The vaulted tombs were decorated. Here we can see a family: the father, the mother and two boys. Between the boys there is a low table on which there is a glass vessel. The elder boy holds a conical vessel. With this vessel they made libations in honor of their dead grandmother who is depicted on the edge of the other wall, on the right.

#### Instructions

- ▶ Find the vaulted tomb.
- ▶ Take a photo of the wall painting with the parents and the children on it.
- ▶ Discover vessels similar to the glass vessel in the painting, in this gallery, and take a photo.
- ▶ Find another tomb and take a photo.
- ▶ If it is of a different type, think about its owner: was s/he rich or poor?



## Gallery 4 - From Iconoclasm to the Splendor of the Macedonian and Komnenian Dynasties



### Marble icon

#### Information

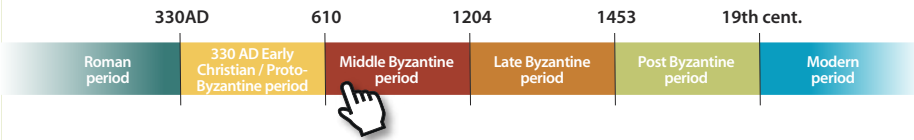
A marble icon of the Virgin standing in a posture of prayer. After iconoclasm, we see marble icons as well. With this icon you can better understand the posture of Agios Dimitrios in Gallery 1.

#### Instructions

- ▶ Find the icon and take a photo.
- ▶ Discover another icon of the Virgin in the same Gallery and take a photo.
- ▶ What material is it made out of?
- ▶ Find an exhibit that impressed you, observe it and think about its use.



## Gallery 6 - Byzantine Castles



### War gear

#### Information

Due to hostile invasions from the 8th century onwards, people were forced to abandon their cities and build new smaller fortified castle-cities. These cities were built in strategic locations, usually on hills, so they could control nearby passages in order to provide protection to their inhabitants. The financial circumstances were particularly difficult in that period.

These exhibits provide information about the occupations and activities in a castle-city.

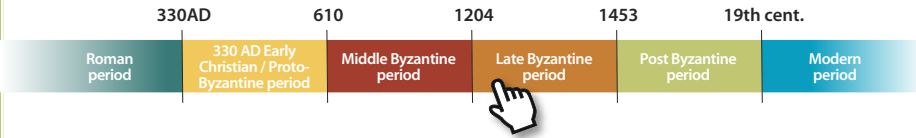
#### Instructions

- ▶ Discover the exhibits related to war.
- ▶ Take a photo of them.
- ▶ Think about their use.





## Gallery 7 - The Twilight of Byzantium



### Virgin Hodegetria (double-sided icon)

#### Information

Icons which are painted on both sides are called double-sided icons. With these particular icons they usually painted one side first. Often, after years, due to wear, they painted the other side of the icon, so that they would use the same wood. Double-sided icons were often used during ritual processions.

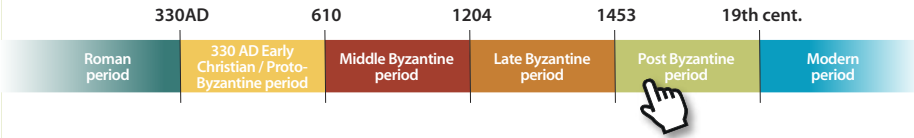
#### Instructions

- ▶ Find the icon and take a photo of both sides.
- ▶ Find the marks on the bottom of the icon. They were made from the use of a shaft which was fixed during processions. Take a photo.
- ▶ Observe in which hand the Virgin Mary holds Jesus.





## Gallery 10 - Byzantium after Byzantium



### Icon with the Virgin Galaktotrofousa

#### Information

A unique icon, in which the Virgin is breastfeeding the baby Jesus (Panagia Galaktotrofousa in Greek). It is a work by a monk from a guild of painters from Galatista, Chalkidiki. During the years of the Ottoman conquest, groups of artists traveled through Greece and painted icons and church wall paintings for commissions.

#### Instructions

- ▶ Find the icon and take a photo.
- ▶ Observe the epigraphy at the bottom of the icon.
- ▶ According to the epigraphy, when was the icon painted?
- ▶ Find the name of the artist "Μακαρίου Μοβαχού" (Makariou Monachou), meaning "Makarius monk" and take a photo.
- ▶ Find more icons with the Virgin and Jesus in the same Gallery.
- ▶ Observe in which hand Jesus is being held in each icon.
- ▶ What is your conclusion? What is the usual way?

#### At the end of the visit or at school

- ▶ Think about and write a story including all the exhibits you observed.

