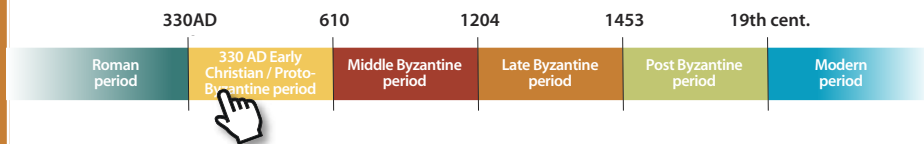


## Gallery 1 - Early Christian Churches



### Corinthian column capital

#### Information

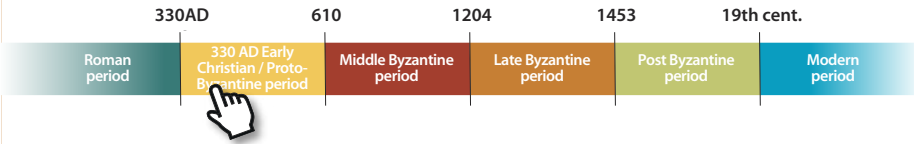
Capitals were placed at the top of a column. Depending on their form, these capitals are called Ionic, Doric, Corinthian, or Theodosian. In the Byzantine era, the most common column capitals were the Corinthian or Theodosian, which were decorated with acanthus leaves (a type of wild flower).

#### Instructions

- ▶ Find the column capital and take a photo.
- ▶ What material is it made of?
- ▶ Observe its leaves.
- ▶ Find a column and take a photo.
- ▶ Observe the large photo of the basilica-type church Acheiropoietos at the right part of the gallery and see where the columns and the capitals were placed inside the temple.
- ▶ Take a photo of that church.



## Gallery 2 - Early Christian City and Private Dwelling



### Finial from a column capital - wellhead

#### Information

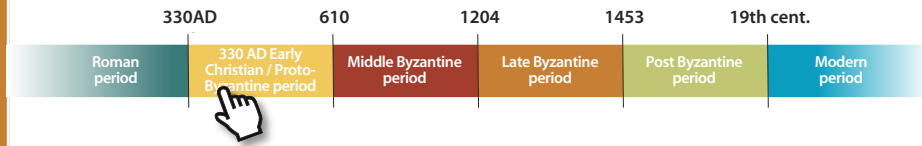
This marble structure had two successive uses. In its original use (as a finial), it formed the intermediate element between the column capital and the building's superstructure. It was originally set upside down from its display setting. In a later period, perhaps after the 15th century, the finial was carved to create a circular opening and set upside down atop a well as a wellhead. The water was being drawn from the wells with a tool, usually a pitcher or an amphora, tied with a rope. The deep grooves on its mouth and walls were made by the ropes when water was being drawn from the well.

#### Instructions

- ▶ Find and take a photo of the wellhead.
- ▶ Take a photo of the grooves inside.
- ▶ Next to the wellhead, find an amphora people may have used to draw water from the well.
- ▶ How else were amphorae used at that time?



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



### Pot burial

#### Information

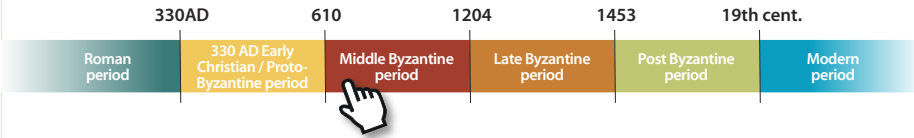
Infants were buried in pots, after breaking part of the belly of the vase. The pot could be an amphora or something similar. The Greek word for pot burial is “εγχυτρισμός” (pronounced: echitrismos).

#### Instructions

- ▶ Take a photo of the pot burial.
- ▶ Find and take a photo of another simple tomb.
- ▶ Find and take a photo of a tomb that may have belonged to a wealthy person.
- ▶ What differences do you see?



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



### Gold wristbands decorated in enamel

#### Information

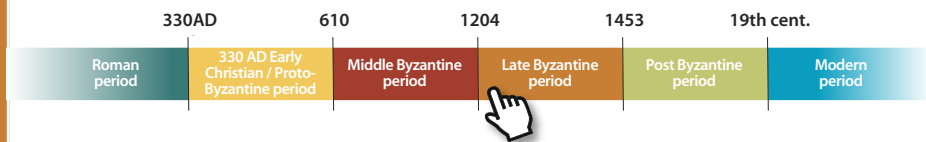
Wristbands were essential parts of the formal wear of men and women of the upper classes. Some were used to hold the wide sleeves. These wristbands are feminine.

#### Instructions

- ▶ Find and take a photo of the wristbands.
- ▶ What material are they made of?
- ▶ What decoration do you see?
- ▶ Take a photo of a detail that impresses you.



## Gallery 7 - The Twilight of Byzantium



### Glazed plates

#### Information

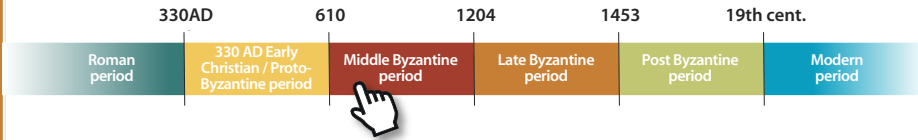
In this period, the pottery was decorated using the glazed technique. The plates were covered with a thin layer of glass. In this way, they became waterproof and elegant. Usually, they had decorations. Glazed pottery is a characteristic of the Byzantine period.

#### Instructions

- ▶ Find the glazed plate and take a photo.
- ▶ Observe its decoration. What designs does it have on it?
- ▶ Pick another plate and take a photo of a detail of its decoration.
- ▶ What kind of food do you believe they put in them?



## Gallery 6 - Byzantine Castles



### Pitcher

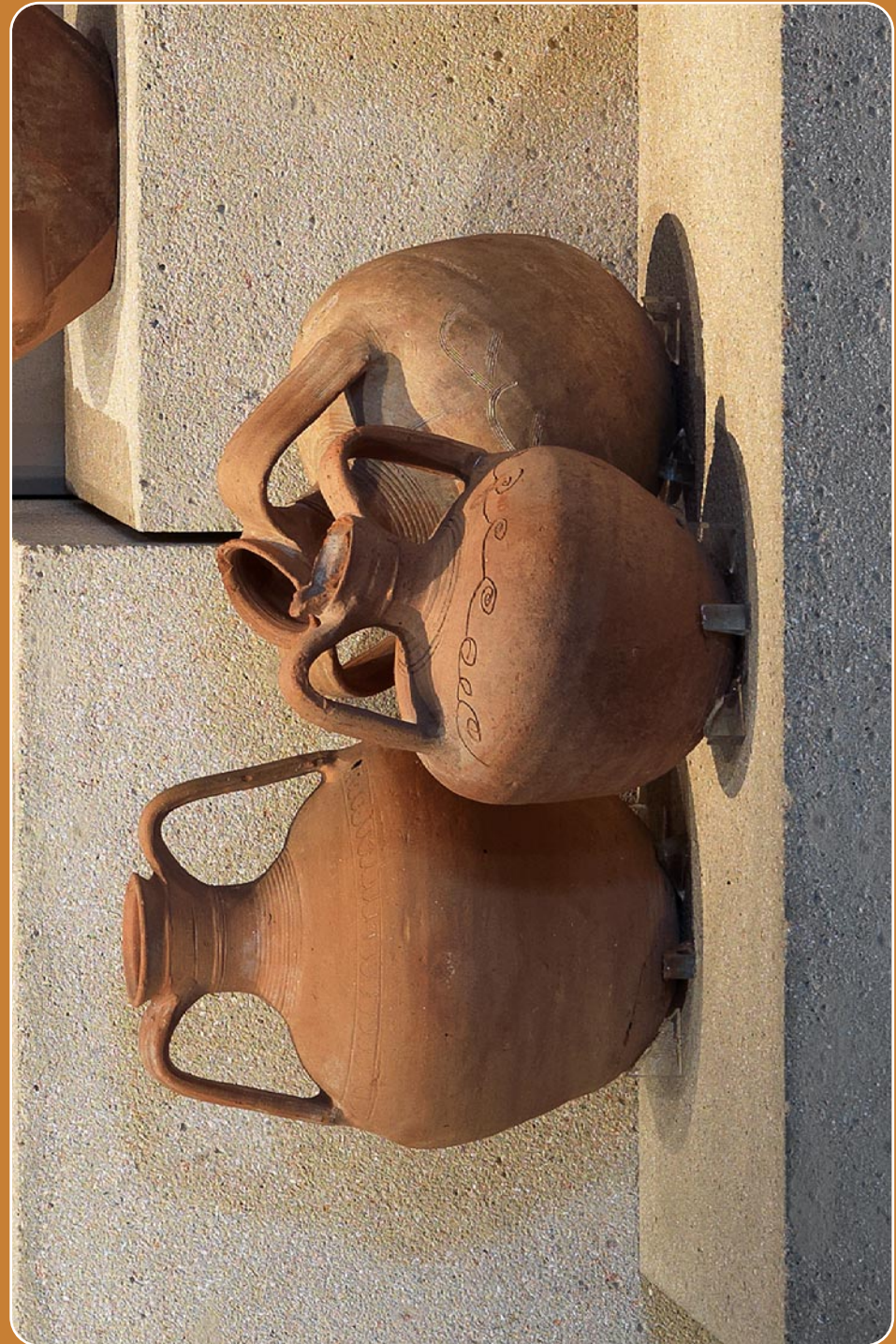
#### Information

Pitchers are two-handled pots people used to carry water. In Byzantine times there was no water in homes, and thus, people had to draw water from springs, rivers, outdoor fountains or wells.

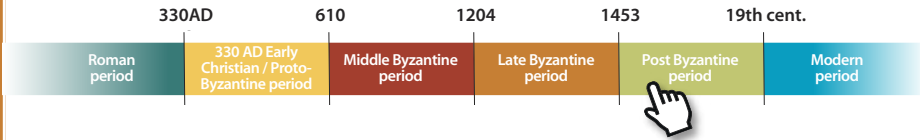
Due to the hostile incursions from the 8th century onwards, people were forced to abandon their cities and build new, smaller fortified castle-cities. These cities were built in key positions, usually on hills, so they could control the nearby passes around in order to better protect their inhabitants. The financial circumstances were particularly difficult in that period.

#### Instructions

- ▶ Find the pitchers and take a photo.
- ▶ Have you ever come across any pots that look like these ones? What are their names?



## Gallery 10 - Byzantium after Byzantium



### Silver wedding wreaths

#### Information

During the wedding ceremony metal wreaths were worn by the bride and groom. They could be found in any church and thus the couples did not need to bring their own.

#### Instructions

- ▶ Find the wreaths and take a photo.
- ▶ What do they look like?
- ▶ Observe and describe their decoration.
- ▶ What do the wedding wreaths look like nowadays?
- ▶ Find a gold object with a similar shape and take a photo.
- ▶ Who wore it?

#### At school

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

