

## The Symposium

This cup was made in Athens around 500BCE.

It would have been used for drinking watered wine out of at a sort of party called a symposium, where people lay on couches, chatted and had debates, told stories, and played music and games.

The decoration inside the cup shows men at a symposium and, in the very middle, the face of a Gorgon – a scary monster from ancient Greek myth who could turn people to stone with one look!

Look at the cup in detail. What are the people at the party doing? What things do they have with them?

**On the next page, draw your own version of a symposium and add a monster's face in the middle:**

What will the people wear? What will they be doing?

What does your monster look like?

What would look good inside a cup?



Vase: Athenian black-figure footed cup (kylix) (AN1974.344), c. 500 BCE. Image © Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford.

You can see an animation made from this cup by the Panoply Vase Animation Project at: [www.panoply.org.uk/the-symposium.html](http://www.panoply.org.uk/the-symposium.html).

The animation and this worksheet were funded by the Oxford University Knowledge Exchange Fund, for the Classics in Communities project, based at the University of Oxford Faculty of Classics, and the Ashmolean Museum, 2016.



Describe your symposium in a few sentences: What's happening? Who's there?

Who's your monster?