

B) In the Archaeological Museum of Lavrion

Educational programme "Lavrion- silver- jewellery"
(available in Greek and English)



C) In the classroom

- Students create paintings on what impressed them most on their visit, or write and illustrate a story
- Students play the board game "Argyris' travel" (available in Greek)
- Prompted by the care taken in ancient ore washeries to collect and save rainwater, students discuss the vital importance of water and the daily effort to avoid wastage.



For an enhanced experience for students of the educational programmes, some general information on the archaeological site could be taught in class prior to their visit.

Educational material, available in printed form and in the <http://efaanat.gr>

- Leaflets (available in Greek and English)
- Fairy tale with games and puzzles (available in Greek)
- Board game "Argyris' travel" (available in Greek)

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**MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORTS
EPHORATE OF ANTIQUITIES OF EAST ATTICA**

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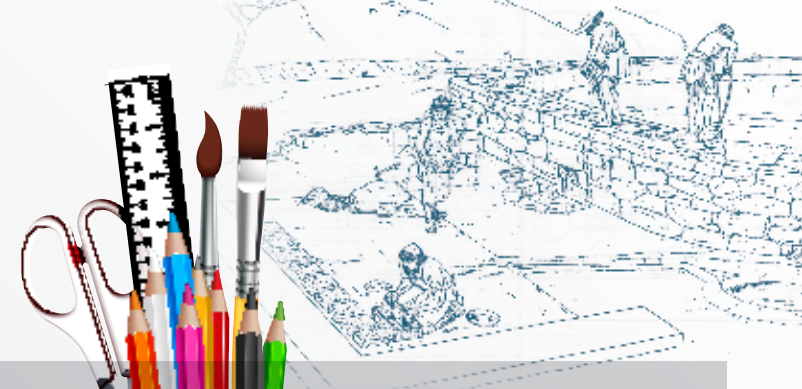
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In the ancient mines of Lavrion

Educational activities
for primary school students

DRYMOS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE



MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORTS
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Lavreotike peninsula, the southernmost part of Attica, was rich in ores. Mining started as early as the prehistoric period, around 3500 BC. Toward the end of the archaic period (end of 6th c. BC) but mainly in the classical period (5th- 4th c. BC) exploitation was organized and intensified in order to produce silver and lead from argentiferous lead ores. Systematic exploitation within a set legal framework contributed to the emergence of the city-state of Athens as a leading power of the classical period. The silver Athenian tetradrachm known as owl (glafka), one of the strongest coins of antiquity, was minted of Laureot silver.

Silver, the precious metal, had many more uses. The cheaper lead also found many applications, among which coating the iron links of the marble blocks and column drums, practised to protect from oxidation, of the Parthenon and all the magnificent buildings on the Acropolis of Athens.

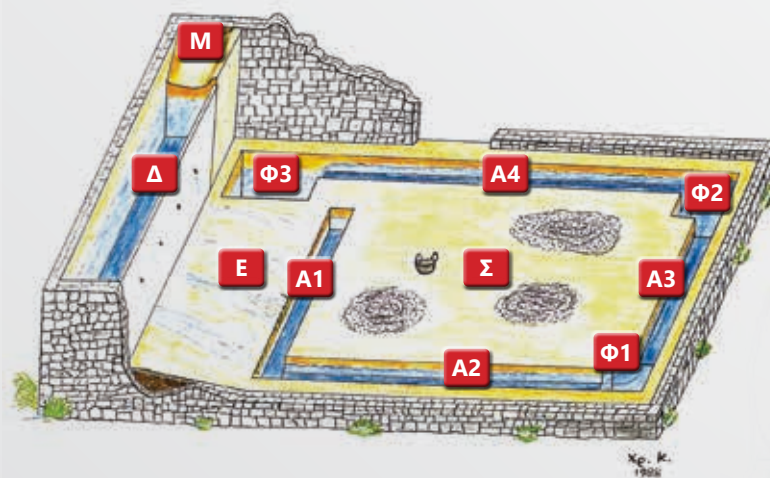
Increased production of silver was made possible thanks to

- development in mining techniques which allowed opening shafts in big depth (about 100 m) to locate the veins
- the invention of the ore washery which expedited cleansing of the argentiferous ore with water, so that it yielded more silver after smelting. Ore cleansing workshops, to which the washeries belonged, were built in valleys where streams of water flowed. Big subterranean cisterns collected rainwater to secure supply of water all year round. Washeries were designed to recycle and reuse water, allowing for minimum water wastage. A special (hydraulic) mortar was used on every surface of water cisterns and washeries, preventing water leakage and wastage.

The process of cleansing argentiferous ore in the workshops entailed the following stages:

- The ore was crushed on stone tables, then ground into powder in mills.
- The pulverised ore was washed in the washeries, where useless materials being lighter were carried away by the water, leaving behind the heavier metalliferous grains.
- Washed ore was left to drain in the central space of the washery (Σ) and
- It was carried in a different area where it was formed into bricks to be transported to the furnaces.

Washeries comprised the following parts:



- Δ Water tank
- M Raised transfusion area
- A1-A4 Circumferential channels
- Φ1-3 Settlement basins
- E Working floor, slightly sloping toward channels
- Σ Drying area, sloping toward channels

Suggested activities

A) In the archaeological site (Drymos I and II)

- Tour in the Souriza-Agrileza valley (Drymos II) following the *Green trail* through the workshops, mining shafts and galleries. The density of installations shows the intensity of exploitation in antiquity. On the northern part constructions from newer exploitation (19th and 20th c.) can be seen.
- Tour in the adjacent visitable archaeological site of Drymos 1 with restored and showcased workshop complexes.
- Educational programme "Looking for the precious metal in the silver mines of Lavrion" (available in Greek)
- Educational programme "Lykinos the herder" (available in Greek)
- Narration of the fairy tale "Argyris' travel"

