Mycenaean and early Greek clay figurines have been found in or near ancient Greek settlements, shrines, sanctuaries and cemeteries. Their role has been much debated and variously described as protection, aides for the transition to the next world, representations of necessities in the afterlife, offerings to the dead, offerings to divinities, and toys. Our selection includes horses with riders—two with a goddess sitting side-saddle—and a number of chariot groups.

While the form of these sculptural horses evolved over the centuries, their significance and the importance of the animal itself as a necessity for civilization, a symbol of wealth, a funeral offering, and a gift from the gods, continues throughout the history of Ancient Greece.

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