Reasons why the myth survived

These Greek vases were made and painted in Athens from the period of 580 – 400 BC. In Black Figure vases the women were portrayed as white because an Athenians role in Greek society was to stay in the house and cook and clean. The most honourable thing that women could do was to make clothes and women were often portrayed in vases to be doing such things as weaving. Around the time period of 490 – 470 the Persians were invading Greece. A number of vases depicted the Trojan War were also made around this time period, such as the Kleophrades painter Hydria and the Makron Skyphos. The Greeks may have painted these vases because Troy was located in the east and the Persians also came from the east. Maybe they showed the sack of Troy in the Kleophrades painter Hydria in bad light of the Greeks to show that a sack of a city was bad due to Athens being looted and pillaged by the Persians. Perhaps the Greeks were painting Trojan War scenes to give hope to the soldiers because they defeated the armies of the east once before, so they can do it again. The battle of Troy and the myths surrounding it were one of the Greeks favourite stories. So many painters depicted Trojan myth friezes in their vases because it was popular around that time period. Most men are depicted as nude in Greek vases. This is because Greeks often contested in sport naked and fought with barely any clothes on, so it was normal for warriors to be depicted naked. Greek painters were also interested in the human form, painting their figures naked would allow them to focus on musculature detail that would not be shown if they were clothed. Married women were portrayed with a veil as this shows modesty because Athenian women should not show her face to any man besides her husband. Greek artists would have gotten their influence from the epic poems of the Iliad and the Odyssey by the poet Homer. Scenes such as the fight between Hector and Achilles, found on the Berlin painter, are depicted in the Iliad and the poems would have been passed down orally as the Greeks did not have many written texts.

The myth survived to Roman times because the Romans copied many aspects of Greek culture into their society before and after they conquered them in 148 BC. "Greece, conquered, led her conqueror captive" is the poet Horace's way of expressing the triumph of the Greeks over Roman art. After the Romans conquered them, they absorbed many aspects of Greek culture into their society. They even merged the Greek gods and the myths associated with them with their own gods under different names and used the mythology of the Greeks to explain their origins and other aspects of the world, this includes the Trojan War as many gods were depicted in the myth surrounding it. Another main reason that the Trojan War myth survived was because of the epic poem, the Aeneid. Virgil created the Aeneid around the time period of 19BC. It depicted the fall of Troy and how a young man named Aeneas journeyed across the oceans and after facing many perils, reached Italy, where he founded the city of Lavinium. Eventually his grandsons, Romulus and Remus, would found the city of Rome and its people. Since this book showed the origins of the Roman people more scenes of the Trojan War and the myths surrounding it began appearing on art, as it was a seen to be a major historic event of the Roman people.

The myth of the Trojan War survived in artwork to the period of the renaissance. There are several reasons why this may have happened. The artwork, such as paintings and sculptures that were discovered during the period of the renaissance, depicted several scenes of the Trojan War. Also the discovered literature, such as Ovid and the Aeneid, told stories that related to the Trojan War. These discoveries would have greatly influenced Renaissance artists to depict the myth on their artworks. Renaissance artists would have read the epic poems and seen the Roman paintings and recreated the scenes depicted in them as paintings or other types of artworks. This explains why many Trojan War scenes started to appear, as there were many

Roman artworks and stories that depicted the Trojan War. By emulating these artworks and surpassing them with new techniques some modern artists believed that they could restore the culture that was lost during the Dark Ages (2). Many artists, such as Niccolo Machiavelli, had an overwhelming passion to recreate the ancient artworks that they had found, he was even quoted saying that "I transform myself entirely to their likeness" which shows how devoted he was in his artwork. **(3)**

Humanitarianism played a large role in the myths survival. Humanitarianism is the study of philosophy of human values and concerns, focusing importance on humans rather than their divinity. **(4)** Before the renaissance, artwork was created mainly to provide religious thoughts and action; the artists did not focus on realism and often portrayed the more important figures to be bigger than the lesser important ones, thus putting the scene out of perspective. **(3)** The discovery of classical artworks characterised humanitarianism as artists began to focus on human beauty and the environment, nudity was now not seen as being shameful or a sin, as is portrayed in the bible, but is seen as the height of beauty. More scenes from the classical age may have appeared because the renaissance artists could depict their figures naked and could focus on the detail of human anatomy like the ancient Greeks did. Paintings of the classical age were sought out by the intellectuals and the rich society as it made them seem cultured and knowledgeable. Therefore renaissance artists were paid by their clients to paint classical myths such as the Trojan war so that they could appear to be intelligent and rich, regardless of if they actually were or not. **(2)**