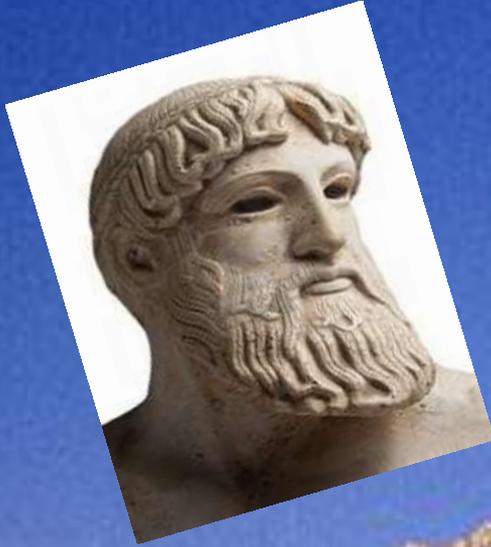


Introduction to Greek Mythology



What is Greek Mythology?



- The people of ancient Greece shared stories called myths about the gods, goddesses, and heroes in which they believed.
- Each god or goddess was worshipped as a deity and ruled over certain areas of the Greeks' lives.
- These exciting stories explained natural phenomena that could not be explained by science in the ancient world.

WHO WERE THE GODS & GODDESSES?



Aphrodite (Venus)

Goddess of love and beauty



- 1) Aphrodite was born on the foam of the sea and rode to shore on a seashell.
- 2) Symbols=Dove, sparrow, rose, and myrtle
- 3) Even though she was married to Hephaestus, Aphrodite had many affairs.

Apollo (Apollo)

God of sunlight, truth, poetry, music, and healing



1) Apollo was the twin brother of the goddess Artemis.

2) A shrine of truth was dedicated to him at Delphi.

3) Symbols=The lyre and laurel wreath

4) As the protector of single men, Apollo never married.

Ares (Mars)

God of war, hatred, and violence



- 1) Ares was known for his short temper.
- 2) Symbols=Dogs, vultures, or a spear and shield
- 3) Had many affairs with Aphrodite although she was married.

Artemis (Diana)

Goddess of the moon, single women, hunting, and childbirth



1) Artemis swore off men with an oath to Zeus as she felt they were a waste of time and unworthy.

2) Symbols=Crescent moon crown, a stag, or a bow and arrows.

3) She and Apollo were known as the twins of light.

Athena (Minerva)

Goddess of wisdom, statecraft, and war



- 1) She is said to have emerged from Zeus' head, full-grown and wearing her armor.
- 2) Symbols=The owl and the olive tree
- 3) Her aegis was a gift from Zeus and showed the head of Medusa.

Demeter (Ceres)

Goddess of all growing things



- 1) Demeter adored her only daughter, Persephone, and they were seen together frequently.
- 2) Symbols=Sheaf of wheat and the cornucopia.
- 3) When she was sad or lonely, no plants grew and winter came to earth.

Dionysus (Bacchus)

God of wine, parties, and drama



- 1) Symbols=Ivy, bunches of grapes, a wine cup, or a leopard.
- 2) Son of Zeus & Semele.
- 3) Wife=Ariadne. Although married, he had quite a few children with other women.
- 4) Was made a full god because he had the power to create wine.

Hades (Pluto)

God of the underworld



1) Guarded all of the dead and was also in charge of the gems, minerals, and wealth of the underworld.

2) Symbols=Bident (2-pronged spear) or Cerberus (3-headed guard dog), cypress tree

3) Captured Persephone & forced her to be his queen.

Hephaestus (Vulcan)

God of blacksmiths, metalworkers, and craftsmen



1) Hephaestus was the son of Zeus and Hera.

Aphrodite was forced to marry him.

2) Symbols=The forge and anvil, quail

3) His own mother threw him off of Mt. Olympus because he was ugly. This caused him to have a permanent handicap

Hera (Juno)

Goddess of marriage and married women



- 1) As a queen, she used the splendor of the peacock to remind mortals of her power.
- 2) Symbol=The cow, which she chose herself
- 3) She is the jealous wife of Zeus. One of the most vengeful of the Olympians.

Hermes (Mercury)

God of trade, travel, and theft



- 1) Hermes was the messenger for the gods.
- 2) Symbols=Winged cap and winged sandals
- 3) He carried a bag of money or a winged staff (also a symbol) with two snakes entwining it.

Hestia (Vesta)

Goddess of the hearth and home



- 1) She was known for her pure and simple life.
- 2) Symbols=The hearth fire
- 3) On Mount Olympus she preferred a plain, wooden throne and the color brown.

Poseidon (Neptune)

God of the sea and earthquakes



- 1) Zeus' brother who lived mainly in an underwater kingdom.
- 2) Symbols=Trident, dolphins, and horses.
- 3) One of the 3 most powerful gods.

Zeus (Jupiter/Jove)

God of the heavens and earth, ruler of weather,
giver of justice



- 1) Ruled over all with his lightning and thunderbolts.
- 2) Symbols=Sharp-eyed eagle, mighty oak tree
- 3) Married to Hera, but had many affairs with goddesses and mortals!