

# APOLLO TO ZEUS

An A-Z of Greek Gods  
and Goddesses



Make use of me in:

YEAR 7: Ancient Greece

## Know the Curriculum

Use this article to promote interest in a study of:

- Greek and Roman mythology
- Ancient Greece
- The Ancient World

## HISTORY LINKS

**Year 7:** The Mediterranean World (Greece): The significant beliefs, values and practices of ancient Greeks.

## ENGLISH LINKS

All levels: Literacy - Creating Texts

## Build your Resource Bank

The resources provided in relation to this study can be found on the following pages.

They include:

1. 'Apollo to Zeus: An A-Z of Greek Gods and Goddesses' in plain-text format (page 5)
2. Pre-Reading Quiz (page 9)
3. KW Chart worksheet (page 10)
4. Godly Brands worksheet (page 11)
5. Legend, Myth, Folklore and Fairytale worksheet (page 12)
6. The Olympian Gods worksheet (page 14)
7. Characters of Greek Mythology worksheet (page 15)
8. Art Object Analysis worksheet (page 16)

## Introduce the Topic

**Complete** the pre-reading quiz (**Resource 2, page 9**)

**Read** the article 'Apollo to Zeus: an A-Z of Greek Gods & Goddesses' by Cameron Paul (**Resource 1, page 5**)

**Use a KW chart** to determine what students know and want to know about Greek mythology (**Resource 3, page 10**). Use the students' answers to develop inquiry questions.

**Watch** the TED talk 'Greek Mythology Digital Story': <http://ed.ted.com/on/ZFoNnQTV>

**Consider** how myths have influenced society today. For example, examine where the names of the weekdays came from as well as brand names your students might be familiar with (Nike, Midas) (**Resource 4, page 11**) Some car names have a mythical link (Honda Odyssey, Toyota Avalon). Look to the stars and think about planets, constellations and even space missions (Apollo) named after mythical characters and stories. Finally examine popular culture which takes its inspiration from Greek myths (*Percy Jackson* etc...).

**Define** the difference between myths, legends, fairy tales and folktales (**Resource 5, page 12**).

**Research** and define the term 'polytheism' as opposed to 'monotheism'.

## Go Deeper

**Research** the Olympian gods and fill out their characteristics on **Resource 6 (page 14)**

**Create** a classroom display of Greek gods or goddess by having students research one that starts with the the same first letter as their name and using **Resource 7 (page 15)** to record their findings.

**Explore** Ancient Greek Art via the Metropolitan Museum of Art's online collection. Analyse different objects using **Resource 8 (page 16)**

<http://www.metmuseum.org/collection/the-collection-online/search?ft=ancient+greece>

**Investigate** what these English words and terms have to do with Greek mythology – Achilles Heel, The Midas Touch, Titanic, Panic, Labyrinth and Myth.

### USEFUL WEBSITES

The following websites are useful for gathering background information and for introducing your students to Greek myths.

- Greek Mythology: <http://www.greekmythology.com/>
- Greek Myths and Greek Mythology: <http://www.greekmyths-greekmythology.com/c/greek-myths/>
- Mythweb: <http://www.mythweb.com/>
- Rick Riordan (author of Percy Jackson): <http://www.rickriordan.com/books/percy-jacksons-world/resources/explore-greek-mythology/meet-the-greek-gods>
- Theoi Greek Mythology: <http://www.theoi.com/>

## Get Creative!

The following activities may be modified to suit different grades.

### LITERACY ACTIVITIES

#### Write a Myth

Ask students to create their own myths which explain how something came to be. For example: Why is earth the third planet from the sun? What made the north and south poles? Where does rain come from? Why are ants small but strong?

#### Biography

Write the biography of a Greek mythological hero, heroine, god, goddess or creature.

#### Biographical Poem

Ask your students to write a biographical poem about a deity of their choice. Students may like to play with this website, which asks for characteristics, family relationships, feelings, fears and home environment and generates a poem for them: <http://freeology.com/worksheet-creator/poetry/bio-poem-generator/>

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### **Mythological Pen Pals**

Write letters from one mythological character to another, to inform them of something, congratulate them, accuse them, invite them somewhere or just tell them about your day!

### **My Mum's a Goddess**

In Greek myths, gods and goddesses frequently had children with mortals. Ask your students to write a brief paragraph or prepare a presentation which explains which god or goddess they would most like to be related to and why.

### **Greek God Ancestry**

Print off Greek god family trees at this site: <http://www.theoi.com/Tree.html>

# Apollo to Zeus: An A-Z of Greek Gods & Goddesses

Greek mythology is the collection of myths and legends about gods and goddesses, which formed part of the ancient Greek religion. Each of the many dozens of gods and goddesses had their own family tree and key role in the belief system of the Greeks. Here are the profiles of just a few:

## **APOLLO**

**OTHER NAMES** Apollon

**GENDER** Male

**ROLE** God All-Rounder

Apollo was that kid at school who excelled at absolutely everything. The son of Zeus, Apollo was mostly seen as a good god with fingers in multiple pies including music, poetry, art, light and knowledge. But he also had a dark side and was known to bring about deadly plagues and ill health.

## **BIA**

**OTHER NAMES** Bias

**GENDER** Female

**ROLE** Goddess of Strength

The personification of force and energy, Bia was an ally of Zeus and supported him in his war against the Titans (a race of giants born to Gaia and Uranus).

## **CHAOS**

**OTHER NAMES** Khaos

**GENDER** ?

**ROLE** God(dess) of Nothingness

Chaos is how the cosmic emptiness that existed before creation is explained in Greek mythology. In a time when there was absolutely nothing, Chaos was there, just keeping an eye on things. It is thought that a Cosmic Egg formed in her (or his) belly and when it hatched, the universe was born.

## **DIKE**

**OTHER NAMES** Dice

**GENDER** Female

**ROLE** Goddess of Justice

It is sometimes thought that Dike was actually born a human and Zeus (her dad) kept her on Earth to help maintain order there. But when Zeus realised that Earth was kind of crazy, he brought her back to Mount Olympus to be the dispenser of justice for the gods instead.

## **EPIMETHEUS**

**GENDER** Male

**ROLE** God of Creation

Epimetheus, whose name translates to “after-thinker,” was the twin brother of Prometheus, whose name means “fore-thinker”. Now, someone thought that it would be a great idea to let these two give all the animals their traits. Epimetheus jumped in first and, being a nice guy, gave all the animals positive characteristics. But then, when it came to giving positive traits to humans, there were none left. Prometheus was peeved.

## **FATES**

**OTHER NAMES** Moirai, Moirae

**GENDER** Female

**ROLE** Goddesses of Destiny

The Fates were three sisters who controlled the thread of destiny for all men, women, gods and goddesses from birth until death. Be nice to them.

## **GAIA**

**OTHER NAMES** Ga, Gaea, Gaia

**GENDER** Female

**ROLE** Mother Earth

Married to Uranus, the pair had, well, freaky kids. These included three one-eyed Cyclopes, twelve Titans, three Hecatonchires (who had 100 hands each) and her last son, Kronus. Uranus was so put off by their ugly offspring that he was going to do some bad things to them. So Gaia protected them all by hiding them... in her own stomach. It was cramped.

## **HERACLES**

**OTHER NAMES** Herakles (or Hercules to the Romans)

**GENDER** Male

**ROLE** God of Strength and Sport

Think of any super buff action hero and Heracles is their Greek mythological counterpart. He was a family man who didn't mind taking some time out to play with the kids, but you wouldn't want to get on his bad side... Heracles was so cool that the Romans changed a few letters in his name and adopted him as one of their own.

## **IRIS**

**GENDER** Female

**ROLE** Goddess of the Rainbow

If you're going to be the goddess of anything, the rainbow is a pretty good job to get. Iris is depicted as a beautiful young woman who delivered messages between the gods.

## **JEREMY**

**OTHER NAMES** Jerry

**GENDER** Male

**ROLE** P.E. Teacher

So it turns out that there's no Greek gods or goddesses starting with J... But my friend Jeremy is half Greek...so...

## **KRONUS**

**OTHER NAMES** Kronos, Cronus

**GENDER** Male

**ROLE** Fertility God

Kronus, you'll remember, was a son of Gaia and Uranus. Because Gaia found housing her gigantic freaky kids in her stomach so understandably uncomfortable, she enlisted Kronus' help. Kronus took a sharp knife and with one fell swoop, cut off his father's... Well, Uranus couldn't have any more kids...

## **LAMIA**

**GENDER** Female

**ROLE** Evil Goddess

Lamia was a mistress of Zeus, which made his wife, Hera (ironically the goddess of marriage), so mad that she killed all of Lamia's children. Angered and upset, Lamia morphed into a hideous child-eating monster... Moral of the story: don't make mum angry or upset.

## **MYIAGROS**

**GENDER** Male

**ROLE** God of Good Health

His job was simple: keep those pesky flies away. You see, flies in ancient times weren't only annoying, but dangerous too. They were carriers of plague and sickness. He was the very first Lord of the Flies.

## **NYX**

**OTHER NAMES** Nix, Nox

**GENDER** Female

**ROLE** Goddess of the Night

Nyx loved the darkness, so it is no surprise that she was involved with Erebus, God of Darkness, and they had enough kids to fill a small army (including the Fates). Nyx coaxed Erebus out to spread his darkness every night and then encouraged their child Aether, God of the Light, to do his thing come morning. Nyx gave her name (or rather astronomers stole it) to one of the moons of Pluto.

## **OSSA**

**GENDER** Female

**ROLE** Goddess of Rumour

Rumour has it that Ossa liked a bit of gossip. Depicted with wings and a trumpet, she didn't stop whispering until everyone knew the latest scandalous news – probably about Zeus's latest affair. It is said that she lived in a house with 1000 windows so that everyone's secrets would carry through the wind to her ears.

## **POSEIDON**

**GENDER** Male

**ROLE** Sea God

Son of Kronus and Rhea, Poseidon watched over the oceans, while his brother Zeus took care of the skies and his other brother Hades (the weird middle child) decided that being the god of death and the underworld was more his thing... Poseidon could cause tsunamis and earthquakes with his three-pronged trident and also had an unexplained fascination with horses... Not *seahorses*... Just horses...

## **Q**

Not only are there no Greek gods or goddesses that start with Q, I don't have any Q-named friends either :(

## **RHEA**

**OTHER NAMES** Rheia

**GENDER** Female

**ROLE** Mother of Gods

Rhea was a baby machine with her husband Kronus. Together they had six children: Hestia, Hades, Demeter, Poseidon, Hera, and Zeus. Kronus was a little worried that his last son, Zeus, might have the same violent reaction to his father that Kronus himself had had to Uranus. So when Zeus was born, Rhea gave Kronus a stone swaddled in baby blankets, which he promptly swallowed. Because apparently eating a rock dressed like a baby stops your son from growing up to cut off your bits...

## **SILENUS**

**OTHER NAMES** Silenos

**GENDER** Male

**ROLE** God of Drunkenness

Greek mythology has gods for the darndest things... Usually depicted as fat, bald and naked, Silenus liked a wine or three but when he'd had a bit too much, sources say that he had the ability to predict the future. It is also suggested that King Midas was kind to the drunk Silenus, offering him a place to stay and, in return for his kindness, Silenus' mate Dionysus – the God of Wine (surprise!) – gave Midas his wonderful power to turn everything he touched into gold.

## **THEA**

**OTHER NAMES** Theia

**GENDER** Female

**ROLE** Mother of the Sun and the Moon

Thea, one of Uranus and Gaia's giant clan, grew up to marry her own brother, Hyperion. In real life, babies born to parents who are related can have some problems resulting from a clash of genes, but in Greek Mythology, related parents can breed some pretty awesome kids. Thea is mum to Helios, the Sun God, Selene, the Moon Goddess and Eos, Goddess of the Dawn.

## **URANUS**

**GENDER** Male

**ROLE** Father Sky

You know the one who has the huge number of strange kids with Gaia... But what you probably don't know about Uranus is that his wife is also his mum... So now you know.

Let's just forget that **V W X Y** are part of the alphabet for a second... Cool, thanks.

## **ZEUS**

**OTHER NAMES** Ceneus, Epiphanes

**GENDER** Male

**ROLE** God of the Sky and Thunder

Zeus is the ruler of Mount Olympus, the land in the sky where all gods and goddesses live. Even the gods and goddesses that were not his own children (but let's be honest, if they didn't belong to Uranus, chances are they were Zeus's) referred to him as Father. He was the god that all the gods wanted to be, and all the goddesses wanted to be with. And he was pretty happy about it too.

## Pre- & Post-Reading Quiz

The ancient Greeks worshipped many gods and goddesses. What do you know about them?

Before reading the article look at the following statements. If you think the statement is true write *true* in the column to the left. If you think the statement is false write *false*. Once you have read the article revisit the statements below. Check to see if you were right or wrong. In the column to the right either give yourself a tick or write the correct answer.

Before Reading	True or False?	After Reading
	1. Apollo was a perfectly behaved god.	
	2. The Titans were giant gods.	
	3. From Chaos came the universe.	
	4. There were no twins among the gods and goddesses.	
	5. Gaia had ugly offspring.	
	6. Iris was the goddess of flowers.	
	7. Heracles was the brother of Hercules.	
	8. Jeremy was the strongest god of all.	
	9. Lamia was a goddess you never wanted to upset.	
	10. Ossa knew how to keep a secret.	
	11. There is a god or goddess name for every letter of the alphabet...except Q.	
	12. Uranus isn't a god just the name of a dark, far away planet.	
	13. Kronus was known to eat his offspring.	
	14. Zeus was a stud!	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## KW Chart

Fill in the chart below. When you have finished, turn one of your responses in the second column into an inquiry question to research.

What I <b>KNOW</b> about ancient Greek mythology	What I <b>WOULD LIKE TO KNOW</b> about ancient Greek mythology

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Godly Brands

Lots of brands take their name from Greek gods, goddesses and mythical characters.

Pretend you were the marketing executive sitting in on the meetings when the names for each of the brands below were chosen. What are the characteristics of the god or goddess that the brand wants to embody or be associated with?



Women's jewellery brand

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Online retailer

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Household cleaning brand

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Sports apparel brand

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Myths, Legends, Fairytales and Fables

Myths are found in cultures all over the world, as are legends, fables and fairytales. But what is the difference? Cut out the elements of these stories and paste them in the correct place on the table below. Some have already been filled in to get you started.

	FAIRYTALE	MYTH	LEGEND	FABLE
PURPOSE	Written to entertain but can also be used to teach morals and lessons.			
CHARACTERS			Often based on actual historical figures, places and events in history.	
				Often only 3 characters or less.
SETTING		Often set in a period long ago, before people were around.		
OTHER ELEMENTS	Feature magic and supernatural events.			
		Many were once believed to be true by the cultures they belonged to.		
EXAMPLES				

# Myths, Legends, Fairytales and Fables



PURPOSE	Stories which are often loosely based upon historical fact.	A story that normally answers how things came to be. Can also teach people lessons.	A type of folktale that teaches a lesson.	
CHARACTERS	Characters are usually animals that talk and act like humans but retain animal traits.	Kings, Queens, Princes, Princesses, Animals with human traits Goblins, Trolls, gnomes, fairies...	Gods Goddesses Supernatural beings	
	Heroic characters.	Often have a good character and an evil character.	Characters can have super-human powers.	
SETTING	Set in the last 2000 years.	Set in castles, forests, towns.	Can be set anywhere and anytime.	
OTHER ELEMENTS	They may be partly true.	Ends in a moral or lesson.	Often used to explain the cultural and religious beliefs of a society.	
	Usually short stories.	Facts are distorted or exaggerated.	Start with once upon a time. Often end with happily ever after.	
EXAMPLES	Creation stories Greek myths Roman myths	The Tortoise and the Hare. The Ugly Duckling. The Emperor's new clothes.	Cinderella The Little Mermaid Thumbelina	Robin Hood King Arthur Queen Boadicea

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Olympian Gods

The Olympian gods were the principal deities of the Greek pantheon, said to reside atop Mount Olympus. The Olympians gained their supremacy in a war of gods in which Zeus led his siblings to victory over the Titans. Research each one and fill in the table below.

GREEK NAME	ROMAN NAME	GOD OF...	SYMBOL	CHARACTERISTICS
Zeus				
Poseidon				
Hera				
Athena				
Apollo				
Artemis				
Ares				
Hephaestus				
Aphrodite				
Hestia				
Demeter				
Dionysus				

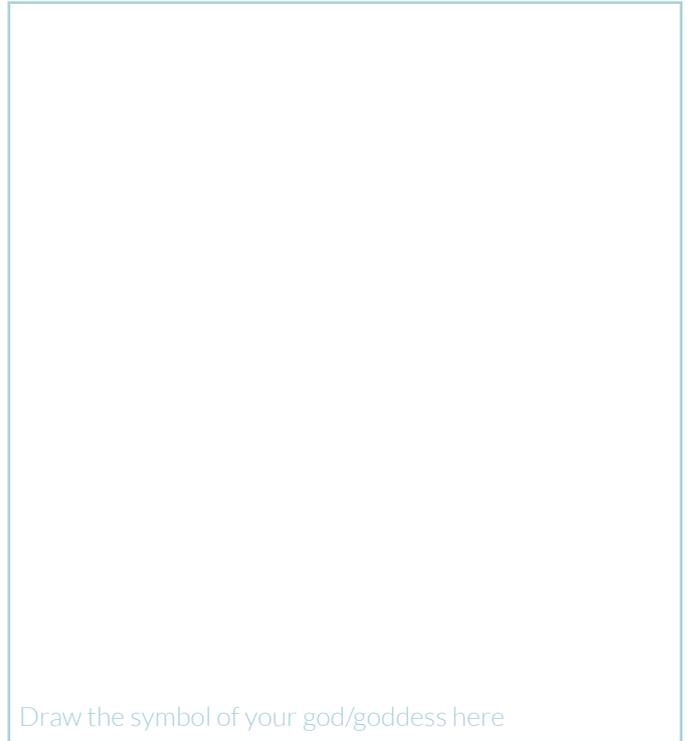
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Characters of Greek Mythology

Choose a Greek god or goddess that begins with the same letter as your name and research them to fill in the information below. Use your middle name if no gods start with the same letter as your first name.



Draw your god/goddess here



Draw the symbol of your god/goddess here

Greek name

Roman name

Mother's name

Father's name

Siblings

Characteristics / Interesting facts

God(dess) of...

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Art Object Analysis

Analyse an object from the Metropolitan Museum of Art's online Ancient Greek art collection.

Paste an image of the object here

What type  
of object is it?

What is it made  
out of?

When and  
where was it  
made?

Does it have a  
use other than  
as art? If so,  
what?

Does it contain  
illustrations  
from Greek  
myths? If so,  
what?

# Teacher Answer Keys

## Pre- & Post-Reading Quiz

True or False?	After Reading
1. Apollo was a perfectly behaved god.	False. He was sometimes naughty too.
2. The Titans were giant gods.	True.
3. From Chaos came the universe.	True.
4. There were no twins among the gods and goddesses.	False. There were several sets.
5. Gaia had ugly offspring.	True.
6. Iris was the goddess of flowers.	False. She was the goddess of rainbows.
7. Heracles was the brother of Hercules.	False. They are the same god, Hercules is just what the Romans called him.
8. Jeremy was the strongest god of all.	False. There is no God called Jeremy...although you might know a Jeremy who thinks he is.
9. Lamia was a goddess you never wanted to upset.	True. She knew how to make you pay!
10. Ossa knew how to keep a secret.	False. She was the biggest gossip in Ancient Greece.
11. There is a god or goddess name for every letter of the alphabet...except Q.	False. A few other letters miss out too.
12. Uranus isn't a god just the name of a dark, far away planet.	False. The planet was named after the Greek god Uranus.
13. Kronus was known to eat his offspring.	True.
14. Zeus was a stud!	True. All the men wanted to be like him and all the women wanted to be with him.

## Myths, Legends, Fairytales and Fables Answer Key

	FAIRYTALE	MYTH	LEGEND	FABLE
PURPOSE	Written to entertain but can also be used to teach morals and lessons.	A story that normally answers how things came to be. Can also teach people lessons.	Stories which are often loosely based upon historical fact.	A type of folktale that teaches a lesson.
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	Often have a good character and an evil character.	Characters can have super-human powers.	Heroic characters.	Often only 3 characters or less.
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	Start with once upon a time. Often end with happily ever after.	Many were once believed to be true by the cultures they belonged to.	Facts are distorted or exaggerated.	Usually short stories.
EXAMPLES	Cinderella The Little Mermaid Thumbelina	Creation stories Greek myths Roman myths	Robin Hood King Arthur Queen Boadicea	The Tortoise and the Hare. The Ugly Duckling. The Emperor's new clothes.