



Mythology Webquest

Name _____

Assigned mythological god/goddess _____

MYTHOLOGY - WEB QUEST

IMPORTANT: USE ONLY THE SITES LISTED ON THIS DOCUMENT AND DO NOT VENTURE INTO OTHER SITES. THIS IS SCHOOL POLICY.

What are Myths? - 10 minutes

As we embark upon our Webquest, we will be gathering information to help us understand Mythology and the Olympian gods. We will get to know the gods by reading their stories and finding out what they represent. When you are finished, you will create a "WANTED" or "MISSING" poster for your assigned god or goddess. It should be fun!!!

Step 1: Take 10 minutes and read page 1 of your packet titled "Ancient Greek Mythology". Highlight information that you find interesting!

Exploring the gods - 25 minutes

Let's learn about some of the gods and goddesses—specifically the gods of Mount Olympus, also known as the Olympians.

Use the links below to learn more about some of the Olympian gods and goddesses.

Step 2: Complete the "Gods and Goddesses Spreadsheet" on page 2 of your packet.

<http://www.mythweb.com/gods/index.html>

<http://www.mythologyteacher.com/Gallery-of-the-Gods.php>

<http://greece.mrdonn.org/greekgods/index.html>

Research your assigned god or goddess - 40 minutes

Step 3: Start filling out page 3 "Assigned God or Goddess" in your packet with the information you found from the links above.

ANCIENT GREEK MYTHOLOGY

Ancient Greece is well known for its stories of gods, goddesses, and heroes. The word myth comes from the ancient Greek word *mythos*, which means "a spoken or written story." Basically, a myth is a story with a purpose. **Myths attempt to give explanations for events in the natural world among humans and between deities.** Myths can teach societal standards, rules, and expectations in a way that interests the listener. Myths often have spiritual or religious meaning. Every culture, including our own, has its own myths.

A Classical Greek Myth:

- ✓ Explains a natural phenomenon or the creation of something
- ✓ Depicts a struggle between good and evil
- ✓ Shows a relationship between mortals and the supernatural
- ✓ Contains magical characters, gods, goddesses, nymphs, giants, etc.
- ✓ Sometimes depicts a hero's quest to accomplish a great feat
- ✓ Makes reference to geological places and cultural aspects of ancient Greece

Many people wonder where myths come from. About 2,000 years ago an ancient Greek scholar suggested that all myths are based on historical facts that, over time, have been exaggerated into impossible events. Most modern scholars believe myths serve as metaphors or symbols for teaching the beliefs of a culture. They believe the events are **not based in truth**, but serve as an exciting way to get people to listen and learn from the story.

Learning about myths is important when studying history because they teach a lot about a society's values, life experiences, environment, and beliefs and allow people to compare them to their own. Myths, historical evidence, and archaeological finds offer insight into a society's past.

Greek mythology begins with Gaia, the earth goddess who formed the world from nothingness. She birthed and later married Uranous, the sky-god. They had a child named Cronus, who left his parents and started a group of fierce gods called the Titans. Nervous about being overthrown by one of his children, Cronus swallowed all but one of them—a child named **Zeus**. Zeus killed his father, opened his father's belly and freed his brothers and sisters. Zeus banished the Titans to the Underworld. He went to live on **Mount Olympus**. The gods and goddesses who lived with Zeus on Mt. Olympus were known as civilized deities, helping to bring order to Greece.

Besides the main Olympian gods and goddesses, Greeks honored hundreds of other gods and goddesses. Some were local deities, known only to the residents of particular city-states, while others were known throughout Greece.

In addition to the gods and goddesses and their mythical helpers, Greek mythology is filled with the stories of heroes and heroines. A Greek hero or heroine was an ordinary person with extraordinary powers. Sometimes these powers were given by the gods and goddesses; other times their origins were unexplained. The heroes and heroines performed extraordinary feats, generally for the good of the Greek people. A Greek hero is **Odysseus**, who defeated Troy.

The Olympian Gods and Goddesses

<i>God/Goddess</i>	<i>Responsibility or Role?</i>	<i>Roman Name? (if they have one)</i>	<i>Interesting fact(s)</i>
<i>Hermes</i>	<i>Messenger</i>	<i>Roman Name: Mercury</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Son of Zeus, 3,000 years old</i> ➤ <i>Wears winged sandals/helmet</i> ➤ <i>Appears in the most myths</i>
<i>Apollo</i>			
<i>Ares</i>			
<i>Artemis</i>			
<i>Athena</i>			
<i>Demeter</i>			
<i>Aphrodite</i>			
<i>Zeus</i>			
<i>Hades</i>			
<i>Poseidon</i>			
<i>Hephaestus</i>			
<i>Persephone</i>			
<i>Hera</i>			

God/Goddess "WANTED" or "MISSING"

Poster Information

1. The name of your assigned god or goddess	
2. The Roman or the Latin name of your god	
3. A brief description of where the god is from and where the god can usually be found (in other words, where does the god spend his time in the myths?)	
4. He or she is the god or goddess of...?	
5. This god is famous for...?	
6. Relatives? (parents, siblings, what god or gods did he or she marry or love?)	
7. Does this god have a weapon?	
8. Significant Actions? Crimes?	
9. Known associates (who they hang out with)?	
10. A symbol that represents him/her? Why?	
11. Last known location?	
12. Other distinguishing characteristics?	

CREATE YOUR "WANTED" OR "MISSING" POSTER

You've learned a lot, and now it's time to get busy on your "Wanted" or "Missing" poster.

-If your god or goddess has committed crimes and is not nice, you might want to do a Wanted Poster.

-If your god or goddess is good, you might want to do a Missing Poster.

Directions: Include the information from page 3 on your poster. Make sure to include a symbol! Good luck and have fun!