

Classical Civilisation

Topic: Gods and Goddesses

This topic covers the following:

- 1 What kind of place Ancient Greece was
- 2 The Greek Mythological Family Tree
- 3 The Titanomachy
- 4 The Olympians: roles and responsibilities, and how to identify them in art
- 5 The 'Judgement of Paris' myth

Name:

Scheme of Learning: Gods and Goddesses

Topic Sequence:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gods and Goddesses	Heracles: Universal Hero	Religion in the City	Myth and the City	Festivals	Myths and Symbols of Power	Death and Burial	Journey to the Underworld

Topic Overview:

This is the first topic of the GCSE Classical Civilisations course, and the main aim is to provide a solid foundation to Greek Mythology to pupils. The specification focuses on the Greek Olympian Gods, and their Roman equivalents. Yet, to start and finish with just this would be too narrow, especially to those pupils who have never read or had any experience of Greek mythology before. This is the opportunity to provide pupils with a greater understanding of the Olympian gods by placing them within a wider context, and to then take these Olympians and place them in mythological contexts. Hopefully, by exploring the wider context of the Olympians, pupils will have a greater understanding of the key components of this topic.

Lesson Sequence:

The lessons have been sequenced to purposely build pupils' understanding and knowledge of how the Greek gods and goddesses are structured, before exploring the stories and myths that explain how these gods and goddesses came to be, and then explore these gods and goddesses in the context of some key myths that underpin the whole course.

The topic starts with an initial lesson that gives pupils an understanding of Ancient Greece on a macro level. It explores the geographical landscape of Ancient Greece, the key cities and places, and the key people that they will encounter later in the course. The aim is to simply provide pupils with an anchor on which to base all their further understanding on. By providing pupils with a wider view of Ancient Greece and what it was like to live there, pupils will better be able to understand the information later in the course.

The first series of lessons explore the Primordial gods of Ancient Greece and explain how the earth and world was created according to the Ancient Greeks. They will explore the origins of the earth by studying Chaos, before moving to the stories of Gaia (mother earth), Uranus (god of the skies), and Cronos and Rhea. What is important in these early lessons is for pupils to understand that the gods were human in their characteristics which is something that underpins all Greek myths. It also places the next stages of the course in greater context. They should be able to relate the stories of Uranus and Cronos, and their relationship, to the birth and stories behind Zeus and the Olympians.

The next sequence of lessons explores the creation of the Olympian gods, particularly Zeus. It explores how the sons and daughters of the Titans become the most powerful gods of all through the Titanomachy, before exploring their characteristics. There is a particular emphasis on Zeus as he is crucial to all aspects of Greek myth. At this stage, pupils will begin to explore art and pottery for the first time, by trying to identify Greek gods and goddesses on pottery. This acts as a stepping stone to later topics which explore art, sculpture and pottery in more detail.

The final sequence of lessons explores some key and fundamental Greek myths that underpin the whole course. Perhaps the most significant is the Judgement of Paris which explains the origin of the Trojan War, a crucial and recurring theme throughout the whole course. Further myths explored include Prometheus and the creation of mankind, Pandora's Box, and Persephone's descent into the underworld and the creation of the seasons. These myths allow pupils to experience the fantastical nature of Greek stories at the same time as applying their knowledge of gods and goddesses contextually.

Sequence of Lessons:

1	Travelling through Ancient Greece
2	Greek mythological family tree
3	Titanomachy
4	Zeus
5	Overview of the Olympian Gods
6	Identifying Olympians in pottery
7	Myth of the Judgement of Paris and the origins of the Trojan War
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Topic Resources:

Knowledge Map:	1. Knowledge Map: Gods and Goddesses	Prescribed Sources:	None
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Assessment:

Knowledge:	19 question knowledge test
Application of Knowledge:	Exam question where pupils have to identify a god/goddess – worth 5 marks

Supportive Reading:

Mythos Stephen Fry	Chapters on Chaos, Uranus, Cronos, Rhea, and the Titanomachy
Treasury of Greek Mythology Donna Jo Napoli	Chapters on Gaia and Uranus

1 Knowledge Map: Myth and Religion: Gods and Goddesses

This topic focuses on the wonderful world of Greek Myth. Greek mythology is a complex and intricately connected series of stories that explain how the world was founded and operated. It is also so much more. It is a study of humankind and the complex lives of human beings. The Ancient Greeks created their Gods in their own image and with human characteristics. We will study these Gods, the myths surrounding them and how each of these Gods is represented in art and architecture, as well as literature.

First Generation: The Primordial Gods

1	Chaos - The Void	Chaos is the God referred to at the point where it all began. It is the moment when Heaven and Earth separate. From Chaos came the Primordial Gods.	
2	Tartarus - The Underworld	The Primordial God of the great stormy pit which lay beneath the roots of the earth. He was the anti-heaven: just as the dome of heaven arched high above the earth, Tartarus arched beneath her. The Titans were eventually imprisoned in his depths.	
3	Gaia - Mother Earth	Gaia was the great mother of all creation. The heavenly gods were descended from her through her union with Uranus (Sky), the sea-gods from her union with Pontos (Sea), the Gigantes (Giants) from her mating with Tartarus (the Pit), and mortal creatures born directly from her earthy flesh.	
4	Uranus - The Sky	Uranus was the primordial god of the sky. The Greeks imagined the sky as a solid dome of brass, decorated with stars, whose edges descended to rest upon the outermost limits of the flat earth. Ouranos was the literal sky, just as his consort Gaia (Gaea) was the earth.	
5	Pontos - The Sea	Pontos was the primordial god of the sea. He was the sea itself, not merely its resident deity, who was born from earth at the dawn of creation. Pontos and Gaia were parents of the ancient deities known as the Old Men of the Sea.	
6	Erebus and Nyx - Darkness and Night	The Primordial God of night, Nyx drew the dark mists of her consort, Erebus, across the heavens at night, cloaking the bright light of the heavenly aether.	

Second Generation: The Titans

7	Chronos	The King of the Titans, and the god of immortality. He led his brothers in the ambush and castration of their father Uranus, but was himself deposed and cast into the pit of Tartarus by his own son Zeus. He was the father to the first six Olympian Gods, of which he originally ate five!	
8	Rhea	The Queen of the Titans and goddess of female fertility. She saved her son Zeus from Cronus by substituting the child for a stone wrapped in swaddling cloth. The Titan had devoured her other five children, but these were later freed by Zeus.	
9	Oceanus and Tethys	Oceanus: The Titan god of earth-encircling water river. As a Titan god he presided over the rising and setting of the heavenly bodies: the sun, the moon, the stars, and the dawn. His ever-flowing waters, encircling the edges of the cosmos were associated with the never-ending flow of time. Tethys: The elder Titan-goddess of the sources of fresh-water and would create the Rivers, Clouds and Springs.	
10	Iapetus	The Titan god of mortality and the allotment of the mortal life-span. His sons Prometheus and Epimetheus were the creators of animals and men. Iapetus was one of the four brother-Titans who held Uranus fast while Cronus castrated him with the sickle. As punishment he was cast into the Tartarean pit by Zeus at the end of the Titan War.	
11	Prometheus	The creator of humankind. He defied Zeus on several occasions, including stealing fire from heaven for the benefit of humankind. Zeus was furious, and had Prometheus chained to Mount Caucasus, where an eagle was set to devour his ever-regenerating liver. The Titan was eventually released from his tortures by Heracles.	
12	Leto	The younger Titan-goddess of motherhood, light, and womanly demure. She was the mother of the twin gods Apollo and Artemis by Zeus.	

Other Important Greek Gods:

13	Hades	Hades was the king of the underworld and god of the dead; he was also Zeus' brother. He presided over funeral rites and defended the right of the dead to due burial.	
14	Persephone	Persephone was the goddess queen of the underworld, wife of the god Hades. She was also the goddess of spring growth as she would spend six months (Spring and Summer) above ground with her mother, Demeter.	

Third Generation: The Olympians

15	Zeus	Zeus was the King of the Gods and the god of the sky, weather, law and order, destiny and fate, and kingship. He was depicted as a regal, mature man with a sturdy figure and dark beard. His usual attributes were a lightning bolt, a royal sceptre and an eagle.	
16	Hera	Hera was the Olympian queen of the gods, and the goddess of marriage, women, the sky and the stars of heaven. She was usually depicted as a beautiful woman wearing a crown and holding a royal, lotus-tipped sceptre, and sometimes accompanied by a lion, cuckoo or hawk.	
17	Poseidon	Poseidon was the Olympian god of the sea, earthquakes, floods, drought and horses. He was depicted as a mature man with a sturdy build and dark beard holding a trident (a three-pronged fisherman's spear).	
18	Demeter	Demeter was the Olympian goddess of agriculture, grain and bread who sustained humankind with the earth's rich bounty. Demeter was depicted as a mature woman, often wearing a crown and bearing sheaves of wheat or a cornucopia (horn of plenty), and a torch.	
19	Hestia	Hestia was the virgin goddess of the hearth and the home. As the goddess of the family hearth she also presided over the cooking of bread and the preparation of the family meal.	
20	Athena	Athena was the Olympian goddess of wisdom and good counsel, war, the defence of towns, heroic endeavour, weaving, pottery and various other crafts. She was depicted as a stately woman armed with a shield and spear, and wearing a long robe, crested helm, and the famed aegis (a snake-trimmed cape adorned with the monstrous visage of Medusa).	
21	Hephaestus	Hephaestus was the Olympian god of fire, smiths, craftsmen, metalworking, stonemasonry and sculpture. He was depicted as a bearded man holding a hammer and tongs - the tools of a smith - and sometimes riding a donkey.	
22	Ares	Ares was the Olympian god of war, battle, courage and civil order. In ancient Greek art he was depicted as either a mature, bearded warrior armed for battle, or a nude, beardless youth with a helm and spear.	
23	Aphrodite	Aphrodite was the Olympian goddess of love, beauty, pleasure and procreation. She was depicted as a beautiful woman often accompanied by the winged godling Eros (Love). Her attributes included a dove, apple, scallop shell and mirror. In classical sculpture and fresco, she was usually depicted nude.	
24	Hermes	Hermes was the Olympian god of herds and flocks, travellers and hospitality, roads and trade, thievery and cunning, heralds and diplomacy, language and writing, athletic contests and gymnasiums, astronomy and astrology. He was the herald and personal messenger of Zeus, King of the Gods, and also the guide of the dead who led souls down into the underworld. Hermes was depicted as either a handsome and athletic, beardless youth or as an older, bearded man, with winged boots and a herald's wand.	
25	Apollo	Apollo was the Olympian god of prophecy and oracles, music, song and poetry, archery, healing, plague and disease, and the protection of the young. He was depicted as a handsome, beardless youth with long hair and attributes such as a wreath and branch of laurel, bow and quiver of arrows, raven, and lyre.	
26	Artemis	Artemis was the Olympian goddess of hunting, the wilderness and wild animals. She was also a goddess of childbirth, and the protectress of the girl child up to the age of marriage - her twin brother Apollo was similarly the protector of the boy child. In ancient art Artemis was usually depicted as a girl or young maiden with a hunting bow and quiver of arrows.	
27	Dionysus	Dionysus was the Olympian god of wine, vegetation, pleasure, festivity, madness and wild frenzy. He was depicted as either an older, bearded god or a long-haired youth. His attributes included the thyrsos (a pine-cone tipped staff), a drinking cup and a crown of ivy. He was usually accompanied by a troop of Satyrs and Maenades (wild female devotees).	

Glossary: Gods and Goddesses

	Keyword	Definition
1	Acropolis	The highest point of a Greek city, usually reserved for religious buildings
2	Athens	Located in Attica, a prominent city-state and a major centre of culture, philosophy, and democracy during the classical period
3	Olympia	A significant sanctuary, most famous for hosting the ancient Olympic Games in honour of Zeus
4	Mount Olympus	Mythical home of the Olympian gods
5	Mycenae	A significant Bronze Age civilization and city-state in ancient Greece, flourishing between 1600 and 1100 BC
6	Primordial	Existing at or from the beginning of time; in relation to the first Greek gods
7	Titans	The second generation of the Greek gods, descended from Gaia and Uranus
8	Olympians	The third generation of Greek gods, descended from Cronos, and became most famous and most powerful; led by Zeus
9	Titanomachy	The battle between the Titan and Olympian gods for supremacy
10	Trident	A three-pronged spear
11	Pantheon	The term given to the gods when we speak of them collectively
12	Iconography	The symbols attached to a particular character when represented in an image
13	Polytheism	The belief in many gods
14	Oracle	An utterance, often ambiguous or obscure, given by a priest or priestess said to be speaking the words of a god
15	Aegis	The breastplate or shield of Athena that contained an image of a gorgon in the centre
16	Lyre	A small Greek harp
17	Caduceus	A traveller's staff
18	Thrysus	A pine-coned tipped staff
19	Maenads	Female followers of Dionysus
20	Satyrs	In myth, half man, half goat attendants of Dionysus
21	Anthropomorphic	Giving human form or attributes to something that is otherwise not human
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23		
24		

1 What kind of place was Ancient Greece?

When studying Ancient Greece, it is important to get a sense of place and time. It is important to understand the different places and where they are situated in Ancient Greece. It is also important to be able to place where key myths take place and key events. This background knowledge will help you when you try and link it all together. The map below highlights some of the key places and key events that we study this year.



KEY:

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| A Athens | D Sparta | G Olympia | J Mt Olympus |
| B Thebes | E Taenarum | H Ithaca | K Troy |
| C Mycenae | F Crete | I Delphi | |

Ancient Greece is not like Greece today. Ancient Greece is not a unified country; it was made up of a series of separate city states. These city states included places such as Athens, Sparta, Thebes, and Mycenae. They would often be rivals to each other in terms of political and financial power.

One thing that did unite them was their religion; their belief in the Greek gods. Each city would look for patronage or support from the gods to aid them in their destinies. The problem was that the gods themselves were often rivals to each other which consequently meant that the city states became rivals.

The Greek gods, again, were not like gods today. Gods today tend to have a distance from their worshippers. Not in Ancient Greece; the Gods were involved in the lives of the ordinary people. There was a god for everything, for every aspect of life, the gods could not be avoided. Their involvement in the affairs of humans often led to disastrous consequences.



We start our tour of Ancient Greece at the modern day capital, and probably most famous city in Greece, Athens. When you arrive in the city, you cannot help but be in awe of the Acropolis. The Acropolis of Athens stands above the rest of the city. The rocky outcrop proudly houses the temple complex built for the patron of the city, the goddess, Athena. She won patronage of the city after beating Poseidon in a contest, thus the city being named after her.

You enter the Acropolis through the grand entrance, the Propylaea. This has been built with the purpose of making the person entering it feel small and in awe of the gods. This is further enhanced when you enter the main area to see the colossal statue of Athena, dominating the scene. The only thing that makes it seem small is the largest temple in the whole of Greece, the world-renowned, Parthenon.

You cast your eyes around the rest of the Acropolis and see other glorious temples such as the Erechtheion; a temple dedicated to Athena and Poseidon.

Before leaving Athens, you sit with the Athenians who want to tell you stories of the hero, Theseus, who made Athens into the most powerful city state in Greece.



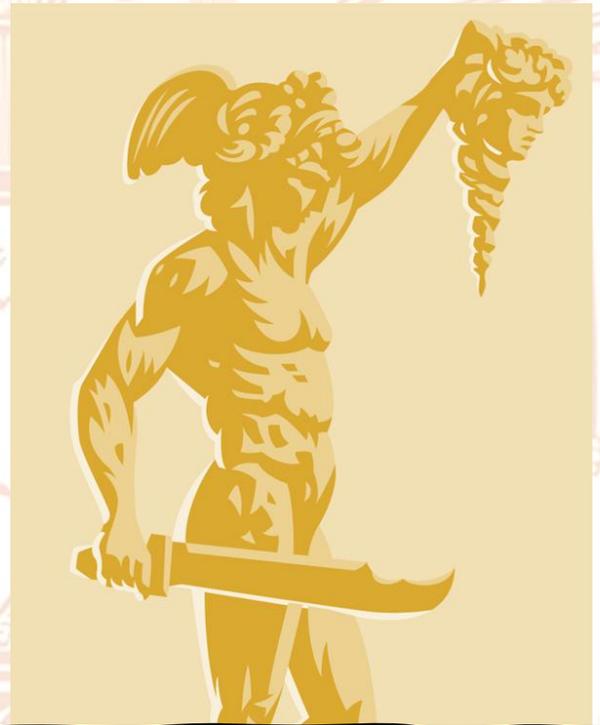


Leaving Athens, you travel east along the coast of mainland Greece and have a short stop in the city of Thebes, a rival city to Athens. You stop here simply to pay homage to Heracles, the greatest of the Greek heroes, for it was here that he married the King Creon's daughter, Megara. Heracles was hated by the goddess Hera and she would plot to turn Heracles mad. In that madness, he would kill his wife and child. This event would be the reason he has to complete his famous labours.

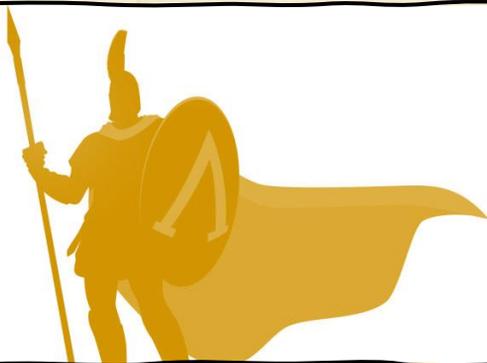
Next, you travel across the water to the Greek Peloponnese, and to the famous Mycenae. This area of Greece would be a powerhouse in Ancient Greek history; so famous it would have an age names after it – the Mycenaen Age.

This city was famous for its buildings, its palaces, and its culture. You could spend weeks in the city of Mycenae and never explore everything. The locals tell you about the founding of the city, and how the Greek hero, Perseus, the man who killed Medusa, first built it. They tell you to visit the famous palace of Mycenae which sits at the top of the city. You walk around its huge walls and terraces in awe of its wealth. This was the palace where King Menelaus lived. He would be the king who would launch a thousand ships against the city of Troy, and start the Trojan War, to avenge Paris kidnapping his wife, Helen.

Before leaving Mycenae, you have just enough time to visit the impressive decorative arts and frescoes around the city.



When you leave Mycenae, you travel to the bottom of the Peloponnese, planning to take a ship to the island of Crete. Before you do, you stop and spend the night in the city of Sparta. Sparta is unlike any city you have seen so far on your journey. Its entire structure and purpose is centred around military power. Its education system and financial systems is focused on preparing for the military and to defend its borders. Its leaders put huge emphasis on physical fitness and military training. After one night in the city, you feel it is time to move on to the island of Crete.



Before you leave for Crete, you cannot help yourself but visit Taenarum. This is one of the entrances to the Underworld, the home of Hades. It would be here that Heracles would travel into the Underworld and drag Cerberus, the three-headed dog that guards Hades' world, into the real world. You think about entering but think twice knowing that only three gods, and a handful of heroes, have ever entered the Underworld.



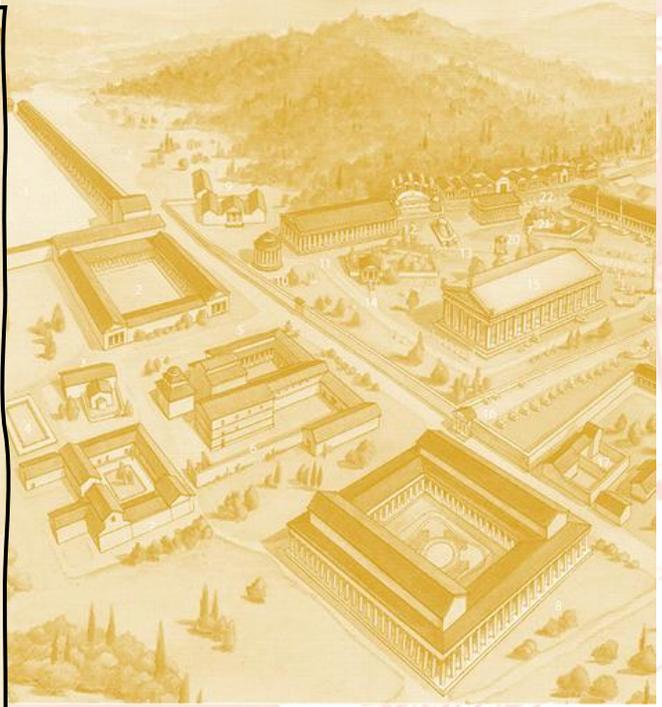


The island of Crete is famous for a number of myths. Perhaps the most prominent though is the myth of the Minotaur. Locals are quick to show you Daedalus' famous Labyrinth where the Minotaur lived and could not escape. It would be Daedalus who helped the Athenian hero, Theseus, defeat the Minotaur. It would also see him locked up by King Minos, where he would tragically watch his son, Icarus, fall to his death as they tried to escape.

After leaving Crete, you return to the Peloponnese, and travel to the famous site of Olympia. This is the home of the Olympic Games. The site is a huge sporting complex with running tracks and stadium for other events such as boxing, wrestling, and equestrian events.

The local residents are split on how these were founded. Some say it was because of Heracles, others say it lies in the story around Pelops and his defeat of Oinomaos in a chariot race. One thing is for sure though, the land is holy, for on this land stands the Temple of Zeus. Until the building of the Parthenon in Athens, it was the largest temple in all of Greece.

As you walk around it the story of how the Olympic Games came into being is further blurred with art dedicated to Heracles, and the myth of Oinomaos and Pelops.



Before travelling back to the Greek mainland, you travel to the island of Ithaca to hear about the famous Greek hero, Odysseus. The locals talk with great pride about Odysseus and his adventures. You learn that it was him that came up with the Trojan Horse, the key moment in the war against Troy. But, they tell you more about Odysseus' journey home from Troy and how it took him ten years due to the wrath of the gods, Poseidon in particular.

You leave Ithaca and return to the mainland and travel to Delphi. This is the home of the famous oracle, where people would go to help guide them. The oracle was under the protection of Apollo, and people would present their problem to the oracle who would present the solution in the form of a riddle, leaving the solution open to interpretation.





Your next stop is perhaps the most significant, Mount Olympus, the home of the Olympian Gods. You look up at the awe-inspiring mountain knowing that somewhere up there lives gods such as Zeus, Poseidon, and Ares, as well as Goddesses such as Hera, Aphrodite, and Demeter. These are the Olympian Gods, and you are a believer, as is everyone in Ancient Greece. These were not the first Greek gods, but they would be the most famous and the last. Entire cultures have been built around the stories of these gods and goddesses, and because of them, the world is what it is today. They should be worshipped, respected, feared, and loved.

The final destination on our tour is another significant one. Troy is a powerful city that dominates the east coast of the Aegean Sea. It was wealthy and a military force. It would be the city that would be dragged into a war it did not want to be in. The Trojan War would last ten years and see the destruction of the great city. Its leader, King Priam, would go to war because his son, Paris, took the wife of King Menelaus of Mycenae.

This one act would lead to the Greeks sending over a fleet of a thousand ships and laying siege to the city for ten years. It would be chronicled in one of the most famous books ever written, *The Iliad* by Homer.

The defeat of Troy would lead to the founding of Rome, as one of its heroes, Aeneas, would travel to Italy and found a new civilisation.



Task: Having read the material in the previous pages, your task is to record your findings from your tour of Ancient Greece. Complete the chart on the next couple of pages making sure to record all key names, places, events, or myths.

The aim here is to summarise the information that we read. To summarise means to give a brief statement of the main points of something. In other words, we are reducing down a large amount of text into a much smaller, more manageable amount with only the main points to remember.

There is an example completed for you to give you an idea about a method of recording.

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H
Ithaca

K
Mount Olympus

I
Delphi



G
Olympia

F
Crete

E
Taenarum

J

Mount Olympus

B

Thebes

Additional Notes

A

Athens

Task:
1. Read through the “Travelling through Ancient Greece” booklet.

2. For each place mentioned in the book, summarise the contents of the booklet into the spaces provided.

3. Be sure to include all keywords, key places, key people, and key myths mentioned.

C

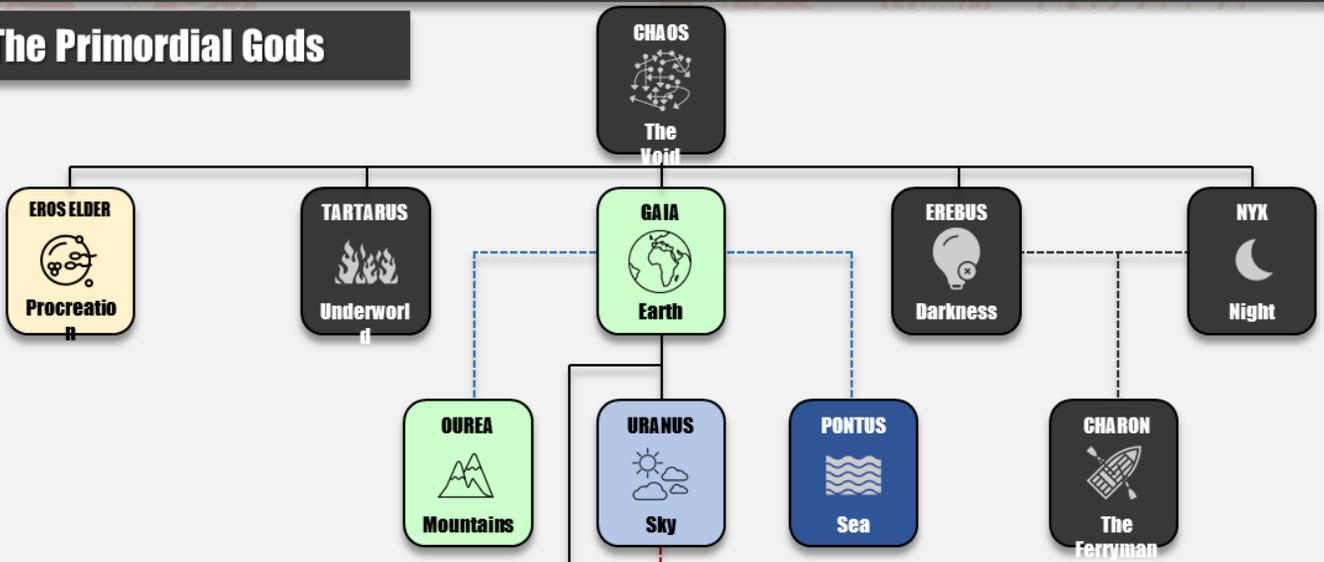
Mycenae

D

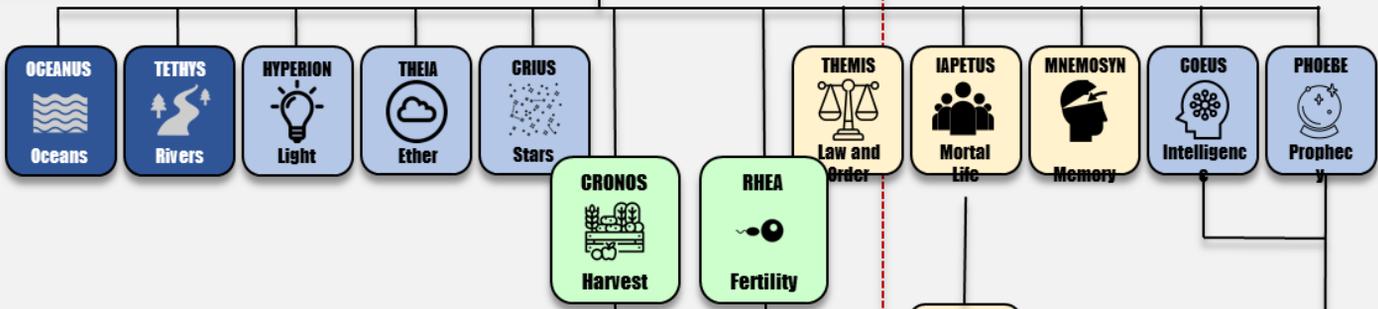
Sparta

Greek Mythology Family Tree

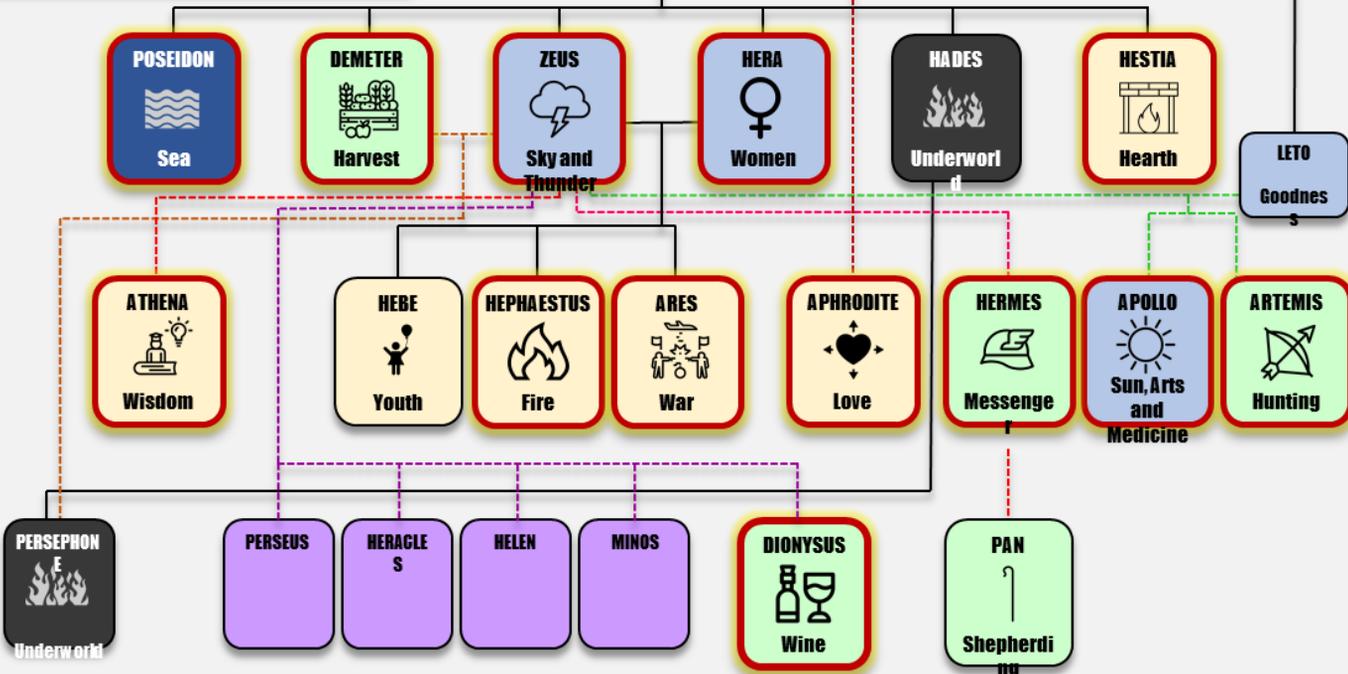
The Primordial Gods



The Titans



The Olympians



Task: Answer the following questions using the timeline

1. From what god or goddess do all gods descend?

2. Gaia has three children but 'marries' which one?

3. From this union, Gaia has how many children of her own?

4. Cronos and Rhea have how many children and what are they called?

5. There are 13 Olympian gods and goddesses on the family tree, can you list them all?

1 7 13

2 8

3 9

4 10

5 11

6 12

6. Who is Persephone's parents?

7. Who is Aphrodite's parents?

8. Zeus and Hera have how many children together?

9. According to the family tree, how many children does Zeus have in total?

shows and terrifying peals of thunder. The hundred hands of the Hecatonchires scooped and launched, scooped and launched innumerable rocks at the enemy like so many demented windmilling catapults until, bludgeoned and battered, the Titans called for a ceasefire.

We will leave them, their great bloodied heads bowed in full and final surrender, and take a moment to look at what else had been going on in the world while battle raged for those ten terrible years.

and landmasses were formed by these battles. Whole continents shifted and reshaped themselves and much of the world as we know it now owes its geography to these seismic disturbances, to this literally earth-shaking conflict.

In a straight fight it is almost certain that the combined strength of the Titans would have been too much for their young adversaries. They were stronger and more remorselessly savage. All but Clymene's sons Prometheus and Epimetheus sided with Kronos, far outnumbering the small group of self-styled gods ranged against them under Zeus's generalship. But just as Ouranos had paid dearly for his crime of imprisoning the Cyclopes and Hecatonchires inside Gaia, so Kronos was about to pay for the blunder of imprisoning them in the caverns of Tartarus.

It was the wise and clever Metis who advised Zeus to go down and release his three one-eyed and three hundred-handed brothers. He offered them freedom in perpetuity if they would help him defeat Kronos and the Titans. They needed no further encouragement. The Gigantes too chose to side with Zeus and proved themselves brave and tireless fighters.*

In the final decisive battle the pitiless ferocity of the Hecatonchires – not to mention their surplus of heads and hands – combined quite marvellously with the wild electric power of the Cyclopes whose names were, if you recall, Brightness, Lightning and Thunder: Arges, Steropes and Brontes. These gifted craftsmen hammered their mastery of storms into thunderbolts for Zeus to use as weapons, which he learned to fling with pinpoint accuracy at his enemies, blasting them to atoms. Under his direction the Hecatonchires picked up and hurled rocks at furious speed, while the Cyclopes harried and dazzled the enemy with lightning

* See Appendix on p. 399.

CLASH OF THE TITANS

At the summit of Mount Othrys, Kronos lay stretched out on the ground. The other Titans had not yet learned of Zeus's rescue of his brothers and sisters, but it seemed likely that when they did they would react with furious violence. Under cover of the night Rhea and her six children slipped away, putting as great a distance between themselves and Titan country as they could.

War, Zeus understood clearly, was inevitable. Kronos would not rest as long as his children lived and Zeus was just as determined to dethrone his father. He heard louder than ever the sound he had heard within him since infancy: a softly insistent whisper from Moros telling him that it was his destiny to rule.

The bloody, violent and destructive conflict that followed is known to historians as the TITANOMACHY.* While most of the details of this ten-year war may be lost to us, we do know that the heat and fury, the explosive power and colossal energy released by the battling Titans, gods and monsters caused mountains to bellow fire and the ground itself to quake and crack. Many islands

* Hesiod, in the eighth century BC, offers us the fullest extant account, but other poets also sang of it; an epic called the *Titanomachia*, by the eighth-century Eumelus of Corinth (or possibly the legendary blind bard Thamyris of Tharone), is unaltingly mentioned in other texts, but remains lost to us. Hesiod describes the pitched battle that shook the earth like this: 'The boundless sea rang terribly around, and the earth crashed loudly; wide Heaven was shaken and groaned, and . . . reeled from its foundation under the charge of the undying gods, and a heavy quaking reached dim Tartarus and the deep sound of their feet in the fearful onset and of their hard missiles. So, then, they launched their grievous shafts upon one another, and the cry of both armies as they shouted reached to starry heaven; and they met together with a great battle-cry.'

Task: Answer the following questions using the extract from Stephen Fry's *Mythos*.

1. Upon hearing of Zeus' rescue of his brothers and sisters, how was it supposed the rest of the Titans would react?

2. According to Zeus, why was war inevitable?

3. What was the ten-year long war between the Titans and the Olympians known as?

4. What impact did the war have on the physical Earth itself? Give at least three examples.

5. Zeus realised the combined strength of the Titans were too strong for the Olympians, so what did he do to increase the Olympians' strength?

6. In the final battle, the Hecatonchires aided Zeus by doing what?

Titans into combat, shouting for one last supreme effort even as the Hecatonchires were battering them into submission. As punishment for his enmity, Zeus sentenced him to hold up the sky for eternity. This killed two birds with one stone. Zeus's predecessors, Kronos and Ouranos, had been forced to waste much of their energy in separating heaven from earth. At a stroke Zeus relieved himself of that draining burden and placed it, quite literally, on the shoulders of his most dangerous enemy. At the junction of what we would call Africa and Europe the Titan strained, the whole weight of the sky bearing down upon him. Legs braced, muscles bunched, his mighty body contorted itself with this supreme and agonizing effort. For aeons he groaned there like a Bulgarian weightlifter. In time he solidified into the Atlas Mountains that shoulder the skies of North Africa to this day. His straining, squatting image is to be found on copies of the very first maps of the world, which in his honour we still call 'atlases'.* To one side of him lies the Mediterranean and to the other the ocean still named 'the Atlantic' after him, where the mysterious island kingdom of Atlantis is said to have flourished.

As for Kronos – the dark unhappy soul who had once been Lord of All, the brooding and unnatural tyrant who ate his own children out of fear of prophecy – his punishment, just as his gelded father Ouranos had foretold, was ceaselessly to travel the world, measuring out eternity in inexorable, perpetual and lonely exile. Every day and hour and minute was his to be marked out, for Zeus doomed Kronos to count infinity itself. We can see him everywhere even today, the gaunt sinister figure with his sickle. Now given the cheap and humiliating nickname

* These later images, however, show him holding up not the sky but the world.

Disposer Supreme and Judge of the Earth

Zeus now moved to make sure the defeated Titans could never rise again to threaten his order. His strongest and most violent opponent in the war had not been Kronos but ATLAS, the brutally powerful eldest son of Iapetus and Clymene.* Atlas had been at the centre of every battle, rousing his fellow

* Atlas's brother MENOETIUS, whose name means 'doomed might', had been a furiously powerful and terrible opponent too, but Zeus had destroyed him with one of the very first thunderbolts.

'Old Father Time', his saw, drawn features tell us of the inevitable and merciless ticking of Cosmos's clock, driving all to their end days. The scythe swings and cuts like a remorseless pendulum. All mortal flesh is as grass beneath the cruel sweep of its mowing blade. We find Kronos in all things 'chronic' or 'synchronized', in 'chronometers', 'chronographs' and 'chronicles'.* The Romans gave this saturnine, sawtoothed husk of a defeated Titan the name SATURN. He hangs in the sky between his father Uranus and his son Jupiter.†

Not all the Titans were banished or punished. To many Zeus showed magnanimity and mercy, while on those few who had sided with him in the war he showered favours.‡ Atlas's brother Prometheus was chief amongst those who had had the prescience to fight for the gods against their own kind.§ Zeus rewarded him with his companionship, taking ever more delight in the young Titan's presence until one day which was to have massive consequences for humankind, consequences we feel even now. The story of that friendship and its tragic end will be told soon.

During the war, the Cyclopes had, as mentioned, given Zeus in respectful homage the weapon with which he is always associated: the thunderbolt. Their brothers the Hecatonchires, whose tremendous strength had secured

* To some mythographers Kronos (the Titan) and Chronos (Time) are quite separate entities. I prefer the versions that unite them.

† Astronomers consult classical scholars when they name the heavenly bodies in our solar system. The numerous moons of Saturn include Titan, Iapetus, Atlas, Prometheus, Hyperion, Tethys, Rhea and Calypso. Then there are the Rings of Saturn. Perhaps they signify time, like the rings of a tree.

‡ Some of the Titanides were very attractive and – as lustful, highly sexed and prone to falling in love as any being that has ever lived – Zeus already had designs on one or two of the more appealing ones.

§ And 'prescience' or 'foresight' is just what the name Prometheus means . . .

victory, were rewarded by being sent back to Tartarus – not as prisoners this time, but as guardians of the gates to those imponderable depths. The Cyclopes' reward was to be appointed by Zeus his personal artificers, armourers and smiths.



ZEUS



POSEIDON



HERA



HADES



ATHENA



APHRODITE



ARTEMIS

THE OLYMPIANS



DEMETER



HESTIA



HERMES



ARTEMIS



APOLLO



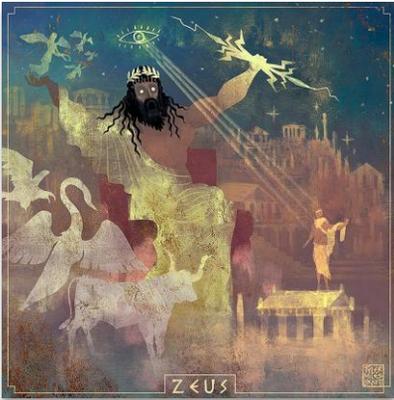
HEPHAESTUS



DIONYSUS

Name:

Zeus (Greek)
Jupiter (Roman)



Role(s): King of the Gods, God of the Sky, God of Law

Associated Symbols: Eagle, Lightning Bolts,

Brief Description:

Zeus or Jupiter was the king of the gods, as well as the father of many of the gods. Therefore, he was the most important deity in both Ancient Greece and Rome. As such, he was usually depicted on a throne. He was the most powerful of the gods, and as a lawgiver would try to impose his will on the rest of the gods, with varying degrees of success. He was known to be promiscuous, having a habit of coming to earth and having many children with mortal women. This was in spite of being married to Hera/Juno. The Romans considered Jupiter as the protector of their city and people. Eagles were thought to be the messengers of Zeus/Jupiter, which is why their appearance was seen as a good omen, particularly for the Romans.

Name:

Poseidon (Greek)
Neptune (Roman)



Role(s): God of the Sea, God of Earthquakes, God of Horses

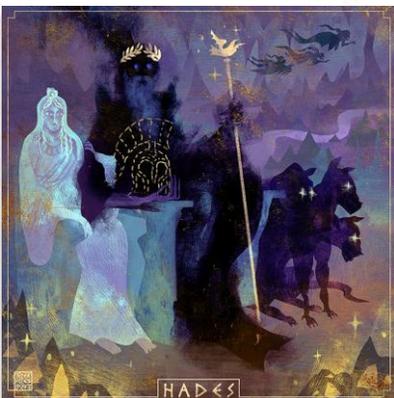
Associated Symbols: Trident, Horse, Dolphin

Brief Description:

Poseidon/Neptune was the god of the sea and brother to Zeus/Jupiter and Hades/Pluto. The story goes that the world was divided between the three brothers. Zeus/Jupiter took for himself the sky and land, while Poseidon/Neptune received the sea. As god of the sea, he was very important to sailors, who would pray to him for a safe voyage. In addition, it was he who would be thanked for naval victories. Storms at sea were considered to be a sign of Poseidon's/Neptune's displeasure. As trading via the sea was much faster than over land, and, therefore, more significant, he was a very important god. This was especially true for the Romans, considering the fact that their empire spanned the whole Mediterranean Sea. Poseidon/Neptune would often be depicted with a trident, which was his most common symbol. He could use it to generate earthquakes.

Name:

Hades (Greek)
Pluto (Roman)



Role(s): God of the Underworld

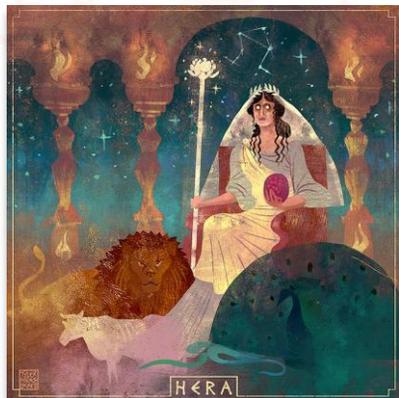
Associated Symbols: Cerberus, Helmet/Cap of Invisibility, Cornucopia

Brief Description:

Hades/Pluto was the god of the underworld and the brother of Zeus/Jupiter and Poseidon/Neptune. In the division of the world, he was granted rule of the underworld. This was the least attractive of the three realms but was still important as it gave him control over all the mortals who had gone before, as all those who died went to his underworld. Cerberus was a creature that was most often associated with him. Cerberus was a three-headed dog that guarded the entrance to the underworld. Hades/Pluto was also the judge of the dead. He was also associated with great wealth as he owned all the gold and silver in the ground. He was apparently a God of many names, and the Romans also knew him as Dis Pater and Orcus, though the latter was more often used to describe him as a punisher of evildoers, as well as being used as a name for the underworld itself.

Name:

Hera (Greek)
Juno (Roman)

**Role(s):** Queen of the Gods, Goddess of Marriage and Family**Associated Symbols:** Peacock, Lotus-Tipped Sceptre, Diadem**Brief Description:**

Hera/Juno was the Queen of the Gods and wife to Zeus/Jupiter. She was also his sister. As the chief goddess of the pantheon she was also the protector of women. She was known to attempt to get revenge on Zeus/Jupiter's many lovers and their children. The most famous example of this was the case of Heracles/Hercules, who was the most famous of Zeus/Jupiter's mortal children. Her jealousy resulted in her making his life hard, and she was responsible for him having to undertake the famous 12 Labours. Hera/Juno was known for a wide variety of functions, as well as her most famous ones of marriage and family, such as looking after the Roman treasury.

Name:

Athena (Greek)
Minerva (Roman)

**Role(s):** Goddess of Wisdom, Goddess of Arts and Craft, Goddess of War**Associated Symbols:** Helmet and Shield (Aegis), Owl, Olive Tree**Brief Description:**

Athena/Minerva was the daughter of Zeus/Jupiter. Her birth was quite unique in that she was born from his head. The story goes that Zeus/Jupiter impregnated another immortal, but after recalling a prophecy that a child of his would overthrow him, he swallowed her whole. After this, he began to have a terrible headache and asked for his head to be cracked open in order to find out why it hurt. This would not kill him for he was immortal. The result was that Athena/Minerva came out, fully grown and in battle armour. Her role as goddess of wisdom, of arts and crafts, and of warfare and strategy (hence her usual appearance in full battle gear) meant that she had many important roles and was significant to many aspects of society.

Name:

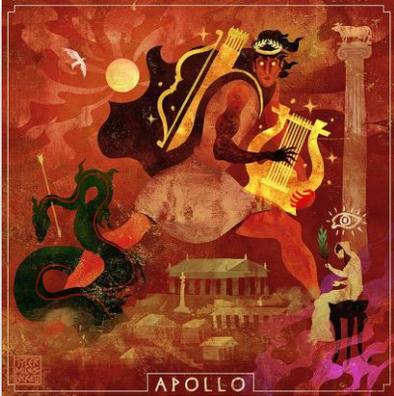
Ares (Greek)
Mars (Roman)

**Role(s):** God War**Associated Symbols:** Armour, Spear, Dog, Wild Boar, Vulture**Brief Description:**

Ares/Mars was the god of war and the son of Zeus/Jupiter and Hera/Juno. He was also the lover of Aphrodite/Venus. He is often depicted in full battle armour to symbolise his role. Mars was particularly important for the Romans not just because of their proud military tradition, but also for his role in the foundation myth of Rome. He was the father of Romulus and Remus, the legendary founders of the city of Rome, and so is the reason the Romans called themselves 'Sons of Mars'. He would often be prayed to before a battle and be given thanks to after a victory. The Campus Martius was named after him; these were fields just outside the city of Rome where the military trained and where they gathered before a new campaign. The month of March is named after him, probably because it was in the spring that new campaigns would start. However, for the Greeks, Ares was far less important and far less worshipped. He often represented the brutality and devastation of war.

Name:

Apollo (Greek)
 Apollo (Roman)



Role(s): God Prophecy, God of Light, God of Music, God of Medicine

Associated Symbols: Lyre, Sun, Mice, Laurel Tree

Brief Description:

Apollo was the twin brother of Artemis/Diana and the son of Zeus/Jupiter. He was portrayed as an eternal youth, beautiful but also just and wise. Often, he was associated with justice and morality. Apollo was one of the main gods of the Roman pantheon who came entirely from Greek influence; there was no Roman equivalent that he was compared to; and the only one where even the name was unchanged. Much of his importance in religion and myth is his role as the origin of the famous Oracle of Delphi. An oracle was a method of contacting the gods and determining what their wishes were or a way of divining the future. Famously, the oracle always replied in a very vague manner that could be interpreted in many ways. Often, it was misinterpreted, but it was always proven to have been correct.

Name:

Aphrodite (Greek)
 Venus (Roman)



Role(s): Goddess of Love and Beauty, Goddess of Fertility

Associated Symbols: Dove, Swan, Roses, Scallop Shell

Brief Description:

Aphrodite/Venus is unique in her relation, or rather lack of relation, to the other gods. She was born out of sea foam and came to represent the balancing of the opposites of males and females in life. She was married to Hephaestus/Vulcan, but as he was ugly and lame he did not appeal to her. Instead, she had affairs with Ares/Mars. Venus was particularly important to the Romans as she was the mother of Aeneas, the legendary ancestor of the Roman people. As a result, prominent Romans such as Julius Caesar and Augustus claimed descent from her. As the goddess of love and the embodiment of sexuality and female charm, she was often associated with great beauty and would be depicted at least partly nude. This is also why girls would give offerings to her at key stages of their life; when girls came of age they would offer their toys to Venus; they would also make an offering to Venus just before their wedding. For the Greeks, Aphrodite was better known as representing lust and passion.

Name:

Hephaestus (Greek)
 Vulcan (Roman)



Role(s): God of Fire, God of Blacksmiths

Associated Symbols: Hammer, Quail, Fire

Brief Description:

Hephaestus/Vulcan was the god of fire and the son of Zeus/Jupiter and Hera/Juno, and, therefore, the brother of Ares/Mars. He was also the husband of Aphrodite/Venus. He was a master blacksmith and was often portrayed as one, being able to forge the best arms and armour. His ability was so great that he even made the thunderbolts that Zeus/Jupiter hurled from the sky. His association with fire meant that people prayed to him to avert destructive fires. This is why the Roman festival dedicated to him, the Vulcanalia, was celebrated in August, when the summer heat threatened the crops and granaries the most. He was born ugly, which resulted in Hera/Juno throwing him from Mount Olympus (the home of the gods). When he landed, he injured one of his legs and would remain lame as a result. Eventually, he would develop a talent as a blacksmith and be granted Aphrodite/Venus as his wife.

Name:

Hermes (Greek)
Mercury (Roman)



Role(s): God of Messengers, God of Travellers, God of Trade and Money

Associated Symbols: Winged Helmet and Sandals, Caduceus (staff)

Brief Description:

Hermes/Mercury was the son of Zeus/Jupiter from one of his many extramarital affairs. His primary role was as the messenger of the gods; in this capacity he would pass messages between gods or from the gods (especially Zeus/Jupiter) to mortals; though this was initially at least a role more associated with Hermes than Mercury. To aid him in this, he was equipped with a winged helmet and winged sandals, objects that make him easily identifiable in statues and other artwork. Interestingly, Mercury appears to have been the most popular and, therefore, the most worshipped god in Roman times. This is indicated by the fact that he appears the most in household shrines in Pompeii, the best-preserved Roman town. This could be due to another role of his, that of god of money. Another important role of his was escorting souls to the underworld.

Name:

Artemis (Greek)
Diana (Roman)



Role(s): Goddess of Hunting, Goddess of the Moon

Associated Symbols: Bow and Arrow, the Moon, Deer

Brief Description:

Artemis/Diana was the daughter of Zeus/Jupiter from one of his many extramarital affairs. One of her main roles was as goddess of the hunt, and she was associated with woodland and wild animals; this also meant that she was seen as the ruler of the countryside. She was also known as the virgin goddess of childbirth. This meant that her appeal was to a wide section of society. Women seeking to become pregnant would pray to her. Those already pregnant would pray to her for an easy delivery. Another of her roles was as the patroness and protector of the plebeians / lower-class citizens and slaves, the latter of whom were able to seek refuge in temples dedicated to Aphrodite/Diana.

Name:

Hestia (Greek)
Vesta (Roman)



Role(s): Goddess of the Hearth, Goddess of the Home

Associated Symbols: Fireplace

Brief Description:

Hestia/Vesta was a sister of Zeus/Jupiter. She is the goddess of the hearth, home and family. She was considered a virgin and was often depicted as a stern woman. Originally worshipped only in homes, she eventually became important at a state level. Her importance in Rome is indicated by the presence of the Vestal Virgins, a group of young Roman girls who dedicated themselves to the goddess. The fact that this was Rome's only group of full-time priests indicates the importance of Vesta. Their primary role was to keep a sacred flame that was in the main Temple of Vesta in Rome burning eternally. Interestingly, this temple was round and covered with a dome in order to protect the flame, a unique design for Roman temples. This fire was considered the hearth of Rome itself and so gave Vesta a role as a protector of the Roman family. Another unique feature of her temples is that none of them had a statue to her inside.

Name:

Demeter (Greek)
Ceres (Roman)



Role(s): Goddess of Harvest and Agriculture

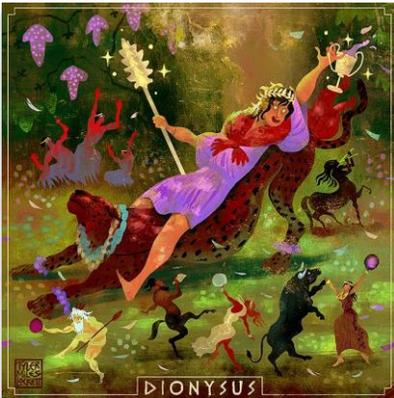
Associated Symbols: Grain, Flowers, Fruit

Brief Description:

Demeter/Ceres was the sister of Zeus/Jupiter. She was often depicted as a fully clothed mature woman holding the fruits of harvest. As the Goddess of Harvest and Agriculture, she looked after the fertility of the earth and was often associated with the cycle of life and death. She was also the mother of grain. As a result she was often prayed to for a good harvest. One of the most famous stories surrounding her was the abduction of her daughter Persephone/Proserpina by Hades/Pluto. This resulted in her daughter having to live half her life with him in the underworld. This is the reason for the seasons, as autumn and winter occur when Demeter/Ceres is sad due to the absence of her daughter. This story was also used to explain the growth cycles of vegetation. As well as her agricultural role, she was also known as the bringer of laws, with this association stemming from the notion that agricultural society was the most civilised.

Name:

Dionysus (Greek)
Bacchus (Roman)



Role(s): God of Wine, God of the Theatre, God of Festivities

Associated Symbols: Thyrsus (pinecone tipped staff), Grapevines, Masks

Brief Description:

Dionysus/Bacchus was another of Zeus/Jupiter's sons. He was often depicted as either an effeminate youth with long hair, or with a beard, but it is easiest to identify him as he will have something to do with wine, either grapes or vine leaves, on his person, perhaps as a wreath. He was often also depicted as a foreigner, and as one who travelled widely. He was known for the frenzy he inspired in his followers where they would become freed from fear. His festival, the Dionysia in Greek and Bacchanalia in Roman, was when such actions would occur. Wine was not just seen as a gift from him, but as an incarnation of him, with the focus being on the joy and the easing of suffering that wine could bring. Performance art was also central to Dionysus/Bacchus, and his festivals are seen as the early inspiration for the birth of theatre. He is one of the main gods that was entirely adopted into the Roman pantheon from the Greek, with the Romans simply Latinising one of his epithets into Bacchus, the name that evoked his role as inspiring frenzy.

The Olympians were the most powerful, and most famous, of all the Greek gods. After the Titanomachy, they became all powerful and dominated the world. They each had their own individual responsibilities as gods that had a direct effect on the world around them. They were also very recognisable and each had recognisable symbols that told them apart from each other.

They also had distinct personalities and characteristics; they often acted very human. They would get angry, they would be happy, they would be jealous, they would be sad, they, essentially acted like the humans they would later create who would worship them.

Having an understanding of their individual personalities and characteristics is essential, as well as being able to recognise them in art and sculpture.

Task: Answer the following questions using the information about the Olympian gods on pages 20 to 24.

1. Which god or goddess is associated with an eagle?

2. Who were the brothers of Zeus?

3. Which god or goddess was responsible for Heracles undertaking his 12 labours?

4. Which god and/or goddess is associated with war?

5. Which god or goddess is associated with a lyre?

6. Which goddess married Hephaestus?

7. Which god or goddess was the messenger of the gods?

8. Which god or goddess had a daughter called Persephone?

9. Which god or goddess is associated with a deer?

10. Who is the god or goddess of the hearth and home?

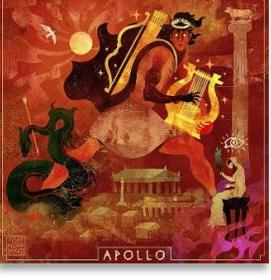
11. Which god or goddess has no direct relationship with any of the other gods?

12. Which god or goddess was born after being released from Zeus' skull?

Task: Your task is to read the following extract out loud, and in pairs, taking one paragraph at a time.

Name	Responsibility	Associated Symbols
Zeus  An artistic illustration of Zeus, the Greek god of the sky and lightning. He is depicted with a beard, wearing a crown and holding a lightning bolt. The background features a cityscape and a swan. The name 'ZEUS' is written at the bottom.		
Hera  An artistic illustration of Hera, the Greek goddess of marriage and women. She is shown seated, wearing a white dress and holding a patera. The background is a dark, starry sky with a lion's head. The name 'HERA' is written at the bottom.		
Poseidon  An artistic illustration of Poseidon, the Greek god of the sea, earthquakes, and horses. He is depicted as a merman with a beard, holding a trident. The background shows a dark sea with a horse. The name 'POSEIDON' is written at the bottom.		
Hades  An artistic illustration of Hades, the Greek god of the underworld. He is shown in a dark, ornate suit, holding a scepter. The background is dark with a white figure and a purple horse. The name 'HADES' is written at the bottom.		
Athena  An artistic illustration of Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom and warfare. She is depicted wearing a helmet and holding a spear. The background features a cityscape and a large moon. The name 'ATHENA' is written at the bottom.		

Task: Your task is to read the following extract out loud, and in pairs, taking one paragraph at a time.

	Name	Responsibility	Associated Symbols
Aphrodite	 A painting of Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love and beauty. She is depicted as a woman with long, flowing red hair, wearing a pink and white dress, reclining on a white swan. The background is a vibrant, colorful scene with other figures and a blue sky. The name 'APHRODITE' is written at the bottom of the image.		
Ares	 A painting of Ares, the Greek god of war. He is depicted as a man with a red beard, wearing a red and black outfit, holding a spear and a shield. The background is a dark, fiery scene with a large, glowing orb. The name 'ARES' is written at the bottom of the image.		
Hermes	 A painting of Hermes, the Greek god of commerce, travel, and thieves. He is depicted as a man with a black and yellow outfit, holding a staff with a snake coiled around it. The background is a dark, starry sky with constellations. The name 'HERMES' is written at the bottom of the image.		
Artemis	 A painting of Artemis, the Greek goddess of the hunt and wilderness. She is depicted as a woman with a blue and white outfit, holding a bow and arrow. The background is a dark, forested scene with a full moon and a bear. The name 'ARTEMIS' is written at the bottom of the image.		
Apollo	 A painting of Apollo, the Greek god of the sun, music, and poetry. He is depicted as a man with a black and red outfit, holding a lyre. The background is a bright, fiery scene with a sun and a temple. The name 'APOLLO' is written at the bottom of the image.		

Task: Your task is to read the following extract out loud, and in pairs, taking one paragraph at a time.

Name	Responsibility	Associated Symbols
Demeter 		
Hephaestus 		
Hestia 		
Dionysus 		

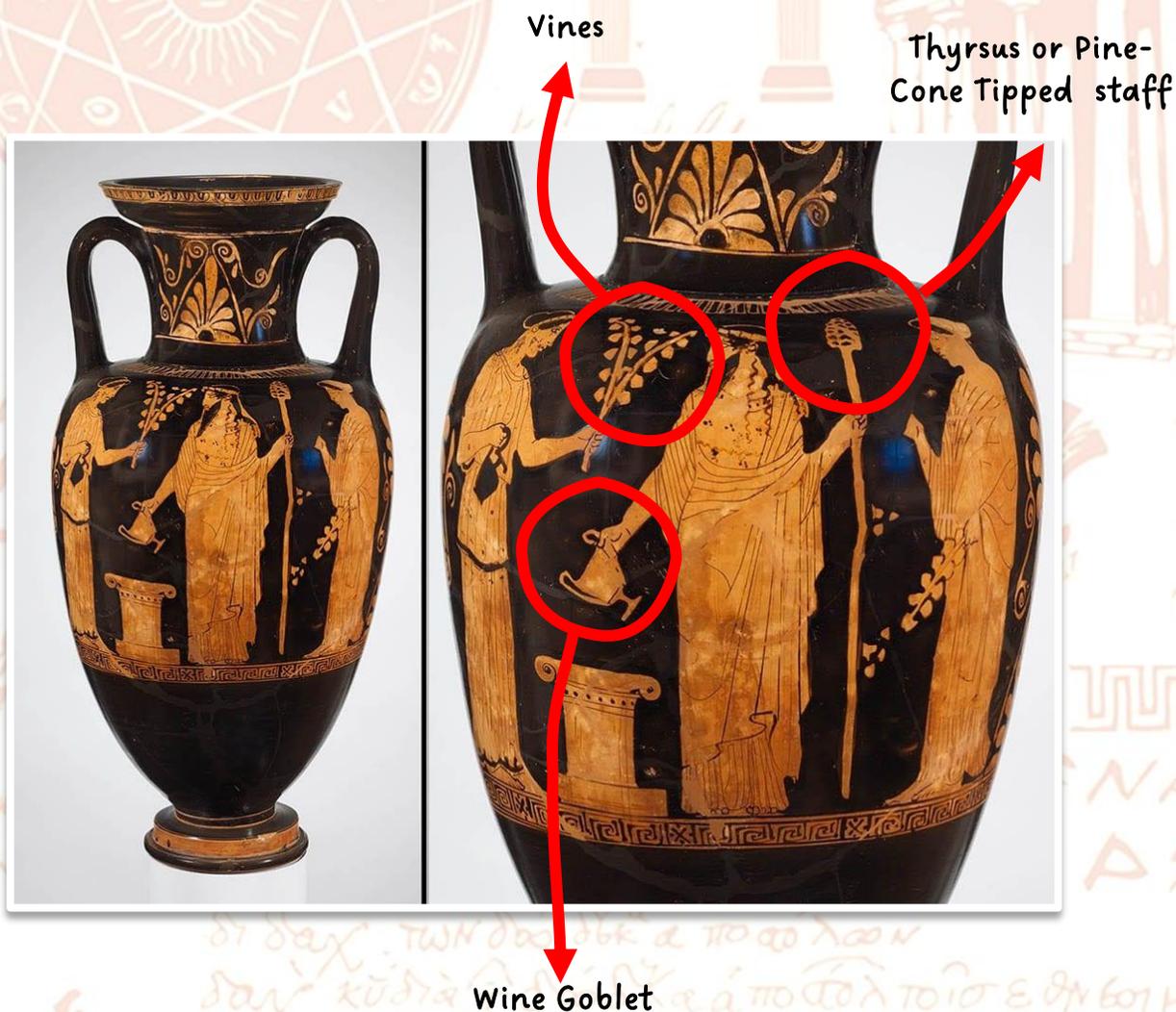
It is imperative that we are able to identify the Greek (or Roman equivalents) of the gods through art or sculpture.

We should be able to recognise the god or goddess by recognising clues within the piece of art that are usually the symbols that are associated with the god or goddess. For example, we should be able to identify Hermes through his traveller's hat or his winged sandals, Zeus through his lightning bolt, or Hera through her lotus-tipped sceptre.

There are exam questions that ask you directly to name a god or goddess depicted on a piece of pottery or a piece of sculpture, and how you are able to identify them.

The example shows what we mean by this. The pottery is a Greek amphora and shows a depiction of Dionysus.

We know it is Dionysus because of the symbology associated with him – they are highlighted below.



Identified god and/or goddess

Explanation why

Dionysus or Bacchus

- Pine-cone tipped staff (Thyrsus);
- Vine leaves
- Wine Goblet



Task: Your task is to identify each god or goddess from the picture below and explain how you identified them.

Identify the god/goddess, and provide evidence to prove your answer

A



B



C



D



E



Task: Your task is to identify each god or goddess from the picture below and explain how you identified them.

		Responsibility
F	 A marble statue of the Greek god Hermes, depicted with a winged helmet, a winged petasos, and a caduceus (a staff with two snakes entwined around it). He is shown in a dynamic, walking pose.	
G	 A marble statue of the Greek goddess Hera, shown in a long, flowing dress. She is holding a cornucopia in her right hand and a peacock in her left hand. The statue is set in a museum or gallery.	

As well as being able to identify a god or goddess from their associated symbols we must also be able to answer the following question:

'Why would [insert god or goddess name here] be important to the Greeks or Romans?'

This is an explanation that connects back to their responsibilities as gods and goddesses and identifying when a Greek or Roman might feel it appropriate to worship that particular god. For example, if the question read:

'Why would Hera be important to the Greeks?'

Your answer could explain any of her particular responsibilities, but one to focus on, and the easiest to explain, would be her responsibility as goddess of marriage. Your answer to the question should focus on identifying her responsibility and then explaining when or why a Greek might offer her worship. For example:

Hera would be important to the Greeks as she is the goddess of marriage. As such, it is likely that Greeks would pray to her before their marriage in the hope that worshipping Hera would bring happiness to the marriage.

We can see from the example above an identified responsibility and an explanation of the context of why someone would pray to her.

Task: Your task is to explain why each of the gods or goddesses would be important for the Greeks.

Poseidon

Hermes

Dionysus

Athena

Artemis

Demeter

Aphrodite

Hades

What does the 'Judgement of Paris' myth reveal about the relationships between gods, and gods and humans?

Task: Your task is to read the following myth and then answer the questions on the next page.

The Judgement of Paris was ultimately a beauty contest between the goddesses Aphrodite, Hera and Athena, but the cause of the beauty contest was due to events at a wedding. The wedding in question was that of Peleus and Thetis; Peleus was a noted hero of Greek mythology. The wedding of Peleus and Thetis was a joyous event and all of the gods and goddesses of the Greek pantheon were invited to the celebration, that was all the deities were invited bar Eris, the Goddess of Discord.

When Eris discovered that the festivities were going on, the goddess decided to make an appearance anyway, and the goddess even brought a wedding gift, a Golden Apple. This though was not a happy gift, for it was aimed to bring forth arguments, for upon it was written the words "for the fairest". When Eris appeared at the celebrations, the goddess threw the apple amongst the assembled gods and goddesses.

Three of the assembled goddesses immediately claimed the Golden Apple for themselves, each believing that they were the most beautiful of all the goddesses. These three goddesses were Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of Love and Beauty, Athena, the Greek goddess of Wisdom, and Hera, the Greek goddess of Marriage and also the wife of Zeus. None of these Greek goddesses were going to give up their claim to the Apple, for to back down would mean that they would be seen as inferior in terms of beauty to their rivals. Thus the goddesses decided to go to Zeus for him to make the final decision.

Zeus might be the supreme god of the Greek pantheon, but this was one decision he not going to make, for he realised that making a decision would pit goddess against goddess, and would mean two powerful goddesses were angry with him. Therefore Zeus proclaimed that the decision would be left in the hands of Paris. Paris was not a member of the Greek pantheon, for Paris was a mortal prince of Troy, a son of King Priam. At this stage, Paris was living near Mount Ida, away from Troy, as it had been prophesised that he would bring about the destruction of Troy – King Priam thought it best to keep him away.

Paris had gained a reputation for making fair decisions unswayed by outside influences. Paris indeed had previously judged a contest about the quality of different bulls, a contest where a bull of Ares competed against one of King Priam's. Paris did not realise who the owner of the first bull was, but saw that it was the superior beast and so awarded it the prize in preference to that of his father.

Thus Hermes brought the goddesses and Paris together, so that the Trojan prince could make a final decision as to which was the fairest. None of the three assembled goddesses were willingly to let their beauty alone be the sole deciding factor in Paris' decision, and so each of the goddesses decided to influence the decision by offering bribes to Paris.

Hera would promise Paris untold wealth and position in charge of all the realms of the ancient world. Athena would offer to Paris all known skill and knowledge, allowing to become the greatest warrior and most knowledgeable mortal. Aphrodite though offered Paris the hand in marriage of the most beautiful of all mortal women.

The Judgement of Paris would shortly follow and Paris decided that the goddess who rightfully owned the Golden Apple was Aphrodite; there is no doubt that the bribe offered by the goddess played a small part in the prince's decision, despite his previous reputation of being unswayable.

Aphrodite would ensure that her promise of the hand in marriage of the most beautiful mortal woman was kept, and the goddess arranged for Paris to abduct Helen, the beautiful daughter of Zeus and Leda. Of course, Helen was already married to the Spartan king Menelaus, and the abduction would lead to a 1000 ships being launched to retrieve her.

The judgement made by Paris also ensured the eternal animosity of both Hera and Athena, and during the Trojan War which followed the abduction, both goddesses would aid the besieging Achaean force at Troy. Ultimately Paris did not display the common sense that had caused him to be made judge of the beauty contest in the first place, although whether a fair decision, devoid of bribes would have avoided future events is debatably. It was after all said that the Trojan War was an event planned by Zeus to bring an end to the Heroic Age, and a prophecy had been made at the birth of Paris that the new born would bring about the destruction of Troy. So events had been preordained long before the Judgement of Paris.

Task: Answer the following questions using the extract from Stephen Fry's *Mythos*.

1. Who was the wedding between which starts the whole myth?

2. Which goddess was not invited to the wedding, and why?

3. The above goddess did go to the wedding and promptly threw a golden apple which said 'for the fairest' on it. Which goddesses believed this apple to be for them?

4. Zeus chose not to get involved in the decision about who the apple belonged to. Who did he choose to decide was the fairest, and why did he choose him?

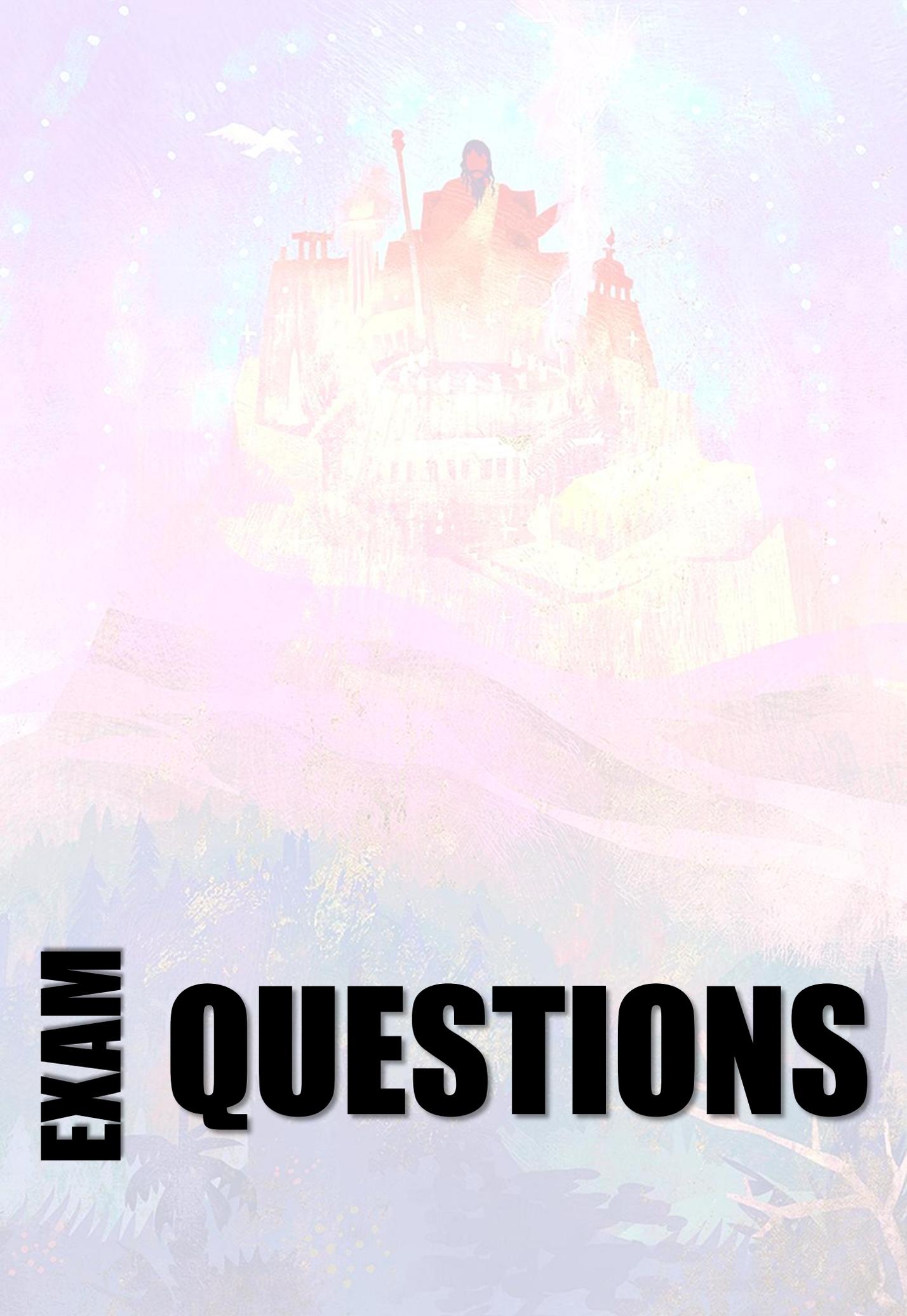
5. What did each goddess promise Paris in return for him choosing them?

6. Which goddess did Paris choose as the fairest?

7. As reward, Paris was to be united with Helen, the most beautiful mortal on Earth. Why was this going to be a problem?

8. What was the consequence of Paris and Helen's unity?

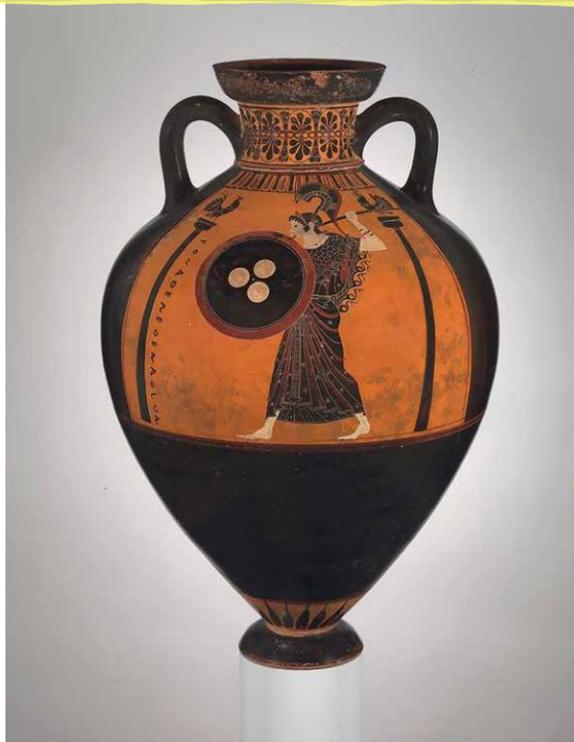
9. What was this war known as?



EXAM

QUESTIONS

**Source A:
A Greek Amphora**



Study Source A

1 (a) Identify the god in **Source A**.

(1)

(b) Give **two** details from **Source A** that show you know it is that specific god.

1.

(1)

2.

(1)

(c) Why was the god in **Source A** important for the Greeks?

.....

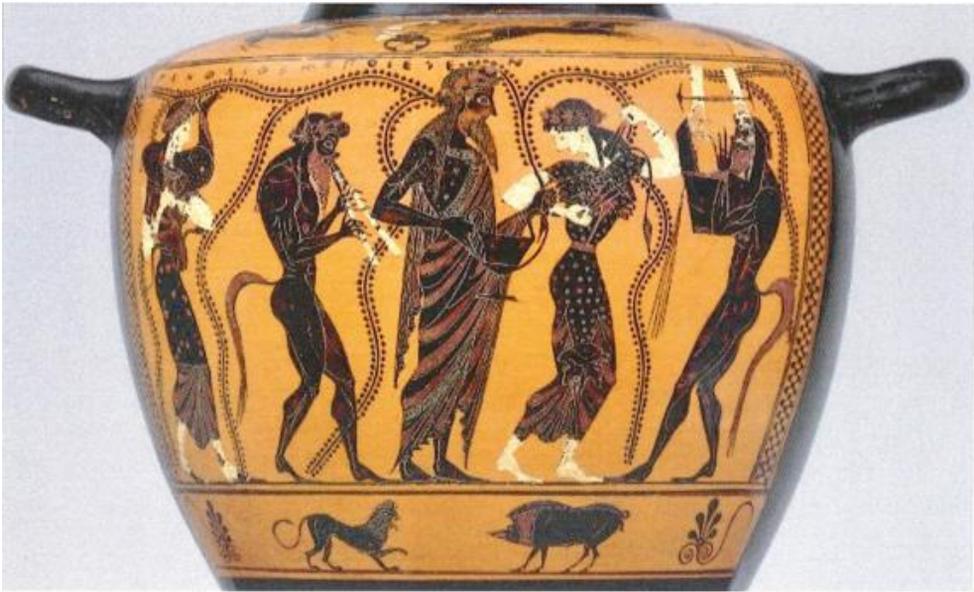
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(2)

Source A: A Greek amphora showing the god Dionysus



Study Source A

1 (a) State **two** reasons why the figure in the centre of **Source A** has been identified as Dionysus.

- 1.
.....
- 2.
.....

(2)

(b) What might have **Source A** contained which was connected to Dionysus?

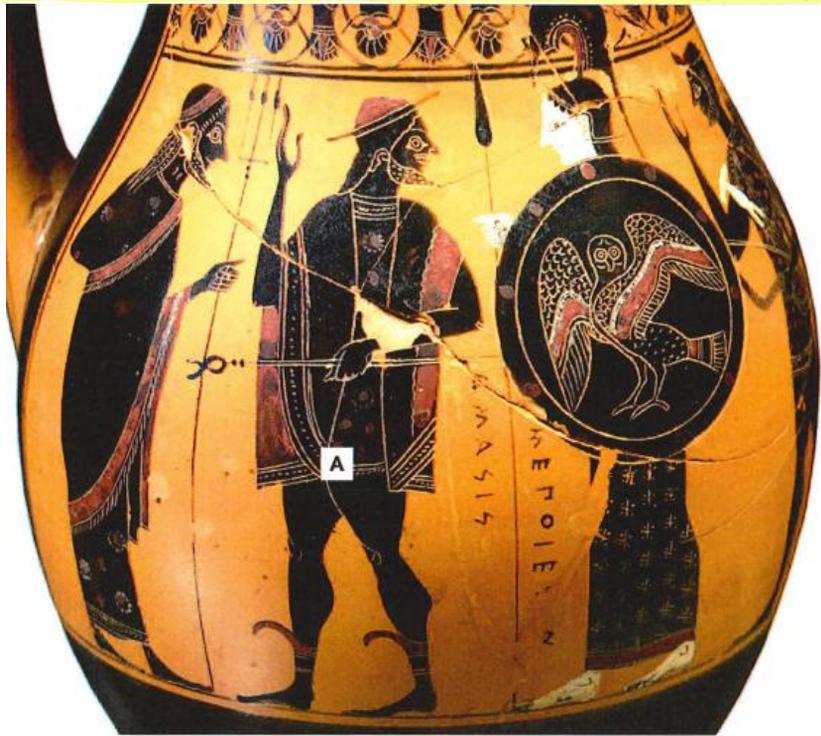
.....

(c) Why was Dionysus important for the Greeks?

.....
.....
.....
.....

(2)

Source A:
A Greek pot showing
three gods



Study Source A

1 (a) Identify the god labelled **A** in **Source A**.

..... **(1)**

(b) Give **two** details from **Source A** that identify the god labelled **A** as that specific god.

1.

..... **(1)**

2.

..... **(1)**

(c) Why was the god labelled **A** important for the Greeks?

.....
.....
.....
.....

Source A:
Pottery depicting
Poseidon



Study Source A

1 (a) State **two** reasons why the figure in **Source A** has been identified as Poseidon.

- 1.
-
- 2.
-

(2)

(b) What **one** responsibility that Poseidon had.

.....

(c) Why was Poseidon important for the Greeks?

.....

.....

.....

.....

(2)

Additional Notes Section

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