

# 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).	