

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	Chaos: Story of the creation of the world
4	Story of Gaia
5	Story of Uranus
6	Story of Cronos
7	Story of Rhea
8	Titanomachy
9	Zeus
10	Overview of the Olympian Gods
11	Identifying Olympians in pottery
12	Myth of Prometheus
13	Myth of Pandora's Box
14	Myth of Persephone and Demeter and the creation of the seasons
15	Myth of the Judgement of Paris and the origins of the Trojan War
16	Overview of the Roman Olympian Gods
17	Identifying Roman gods in art
18	Assessment

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