

Greek Myths

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Greek Myths

The religious beliefs of **Classical Greece** can be interpreted in many different ways.

Nobody can be sure how or why people believe a certain story about their **gods**.

Different people probably have different reasons for believing a story.

Or the same person may believe a story for several different reasons.

Not everyone believes all the stories: different people may tell different stories. And people may tell one story in one situation, and a different story in a different situation, whatever seems to fit.

Greek gods family tree

To help you relate one story to another, the next slide shows some of the ways that the Greeks thought their gods were related.

Greek gods family tree

= means they are married, or at least they have children together

			<u>Gaia</u>	=	<u>Ouranos</u>				
		<u>Themis</u>	<u>Rhea</u>	=	<u>Kronos</u>	Ocean		<u>Aphrodite</u>	<u>Mnemosyne</u>
<u>Hestia</u>	<u>Demeter</u>	=	<u>Zeus</u>	=	<u>Hera</u>	<u>Hades</u>	<u>Poseidon</u>		<u>Muses</u>
		<u>Persephone</u>		<u>Ares</u>	<u>Hephaistos</u>				
				<u>Harmonia</u>					
		<u>Minos=Pasiphae</u>		<u>Semele</u>		<u>Epithemeus</u>	<u>Prometheus</u>	Atlas	(children of Ocean)
		<u>Ariadne</u>	=	<u>Dionysos</u>				<u>Maia</u>	
	<u>Leto</u> (with Zeus)			<u>Athena</u>				<u>Hermes</u>	
<u>Apollo</u>	<u>Artemis</u>								

Greek Myths

- **Now read some of the myths/stories that people told in Ancient Greece**
- **Think of some of the reasons why they might have told these stories and not the other ones.**

And here are some of the myths - stories about the gods and heroes - that Greek people told:

<u>Pandora</u>	<u>Theseus and the Minotaur</u>	<u>Medusa</u>	<u>Perseus</u>	<u>Jason and Medea</u>
<u>Arachne</u>	<u>Actaeon</u>	<u>Oedipus</u>	<u>Antigone</u>	<u>Trojan War (the Iliad)</u>
<u>Judgment of Paris</u>	<u>Phaethon</u>	<u>Daedalus and Icarus</u>	<u>Niobe</u>	<u>The Odyssey</u>
<u>Iphigeneia</u>	<u>Helen of Troy</u>	<u>Europa</u>	<u>Achilles</u>	<u>Cassandra</u>
<u>Menelaus</u>	<u>The Trojan Horse</u>	<u>Agamemnon</u>	<u>Phaedra</u>	<u>The Sphinx</u>
<u>Atreus and Thyestes</u>	<u>Tantalus</u>	<u>Pelops</u>		<u>Herakles (Hercules)</u>

Pictures with captions of some of the important Greek gods

Zeus, king of gods and men



**The
Olympian
Jupiter
statue
composed of
ivory and
gold**



The Minerva of the Parthenon

The statue stood in the [Parthenon](#), or temple of Minerva (Athena) at Athens.

The goddess was represented standing.

In one hand she held a spear, in the other a statue of Victory ([Nike](#)). Her helmet, highly decorated, was surmounted by a [Sphinx](#).

The [statue](#) was forty feet in height, and, like the Jupiter, composed of ivory and gold



Poseidon on an ancient Greek coin



Athena



Dr. Sardharwalla August 2006

A vase of Ares, the god of War



Hermes

the messenger of the gods



Dionysus ***the god of wine***



Persephone, and the fateful pomegranate



TASK

- Complete the fact file about an ancient Greek God.