

Mythology



The ancient Greeks and Romans told stories, or myths, about gods, goddesses, and heroes similar in some ways to our modern fairytales. They often had a deep religious or moral significance. The myths were a way in which the people tried to understand the world in which they lived.

Find out more about mythology and the gods and goddesses by completing four of the following activities.

- 1.** Read three different Greek and Roman myths.
- 2.** The Greeks and Romans had different names for the same gods and goddess. Match the correct god or goddess from the list below with the Greek and Roman names.

Choices: Sun, Love, Grain, Underworld, Sky or Ruler of the Gods, Messenger, Moon, Sea
(Answers are at the end of the activities.)

Greek	Roman	
Zeus	Jupiter	God of _____
Poseidon	Neptune	God of _____
Hades	Pluto	God of _____
Demeter	Ceres	Goddess of _____
Hermes	Mercury	_____ God
Aphrodite	Venus	Goddess of _____
Apollo	Apollo	God of the _____
Artemis	Diana	Goddess of the _____

- 3.** The ancient Romans wore togas. Learn how to drape a toga from a sheet. (Twin size works best.) The goddesses often wore wreaths on their heads and ties around their waists. Either make a wreath (it may be of flowers, grape leaves, or something else) or braid a tie for your waist.
- 4.** With your troop, act out a myth.
- 5.** Make up a story about why the stars shine at night, why the moon is a different shape at different times of year, or why the leaves turn different colors in the fall, or make up your own myth.
- 6.** The gods and goddess were represented by different symbols. For example, a trident represented Poseidon. Find out the symbols for these gods and goddesses and draw them: Neptune, Apollo, Zeus, Aphrodite, Artemis, Diana, and Mercury.

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7. Pretend that there were goddesses of friendship, happiness, play, and fun. What would their symbols be? Draw their symbols.
8. Look at the design on this Try-It. The picture is of Pegasus, a winged horse. Find out who Pegasus was by reading a myth about this famous mythological creature.

Answers to activity 2: Zeus/Jupiter – God of the Sky or Ruler of the Gods; Poseidon/Neptune – God of the Sea; Hades/Pluto – God of the Underworld; Demeter/Ceres – Goddess of Grain; Hermes/Mercury – Messenger God; Aphrodite/Venus – Goddess of Love; Apollo/Apollo – God of the Sun; Artemis/Diana – Goddess of the Moon



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