



#4 Intro to Greek Myth & Lore CN



What is **myth** and **lore**?

- A **myth** is traditional story rooted in primitive folk beliefs of cultures
- Uses the supernatural to interpret natural events
- Explains the culture's view of the universe and the nature of humanity
- **Lore** is knowledge gained through tradition or anecdote
- Most lore is passed down orally before it is written down

Why Study Greek Mythology?

- Ancient Greek culture has been kept alive by the oral and later written stories handed down.
- Modern media refers to Greek gods, goddesses, heroes, and their stories. ALLUSIONS~!
- Adventurous and exciting stories delight and impart knowledge of the human condition.

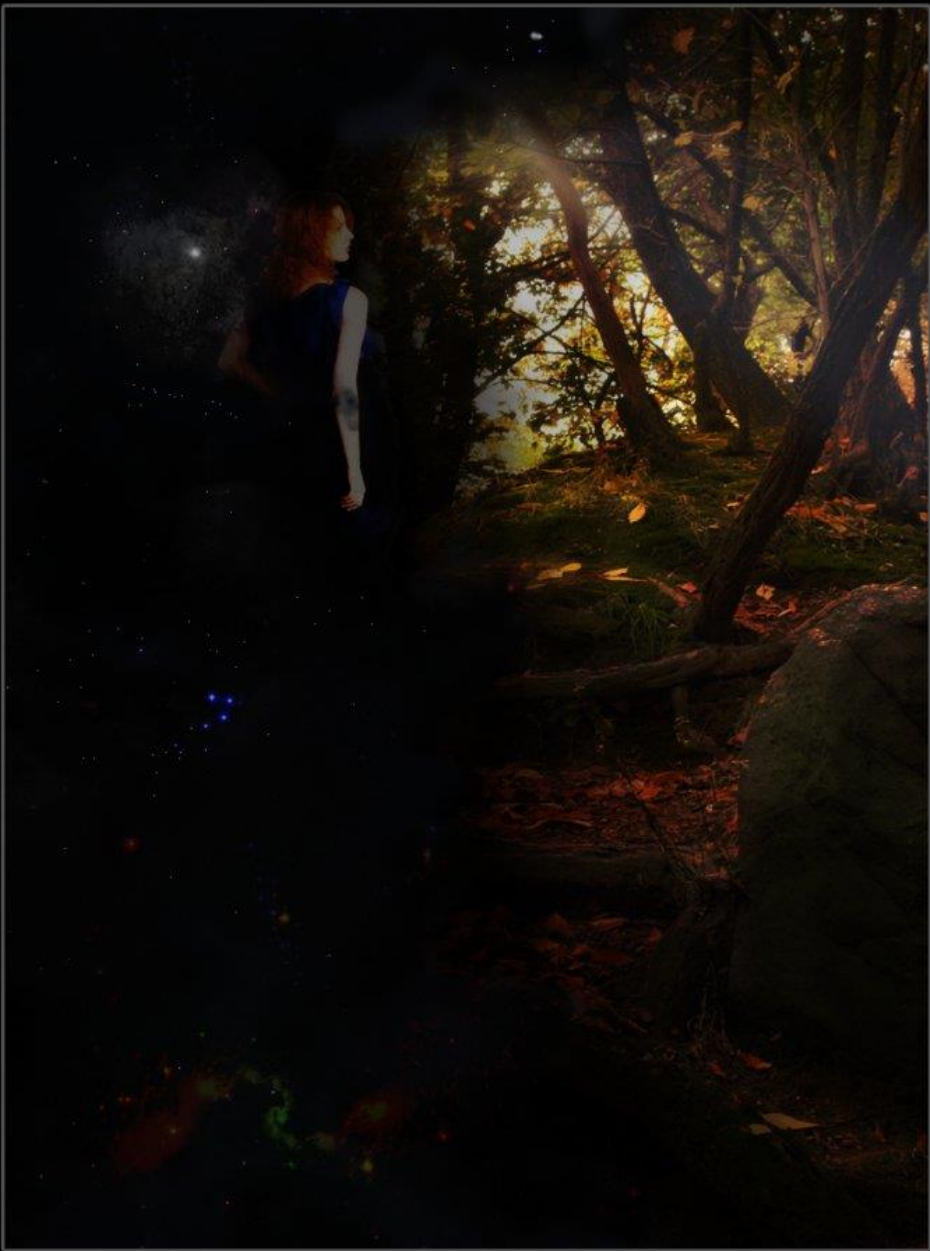


In the beginning...

...was Chaos (chasm, shapeless mass)

Next Earth with Tartarus (underworld)

Vague but immense personifications



~Nyx~
The Goddess of the Night

Chaos had two
children:
Nyx
(night)

Erebus
(darkness)





“Earth, the beautiful, rose up,
Broad-bosomed, she that is the
steadfast base

Of all things. And fair Earth first
bore

The starry Heaven, equal to
herself,

To cover her on all sides and to
be

A home forever for the blessed
gods.”

-Hesiod



Earth (Gaea) bore...

- **Ouranos (heaven/sky)**
- **Ourea (mountains/home for nymphs)**
- **Pontus (Sea)**

The First Parents

- Mother Earth = Gaea (Gaia)
- Father Sky/Heaven = Ouranos (Uranus)
- Kinds of children:
 - 3 Hundred-Handed Ones
 - 3 Cyclopes
 - Titans
 - Giants, Erinyes (Furies), Meliae (tree-nymphs)





Titans (Elder Gods)

- Twelve gods of enormous size and incredible strength
- Golden age ruled by Cronos (Saturn) and his wife Rhea
- Had 6 children (Olympians)
- Cronos afraid to be usurped by his offspring by prophecy

Children Of Cronus And Rhea





The Principal Olympian Gods

Cronos & Rhea's children

- Zeus (Jupiter, Jove)
- Poseidon (Neptune)
- Hades (Pluto)
- Hera (Juno)
- Hestia (Vesta)
- Demeter (Ceres)

Helios

- Son of the Titans
- Personification of the Sun
- Drove the chariot of the sun across the sky everyday



Zeus

- Roman Name: Jupiter (also Jove)
- Supreme god of the Olympians
- Lord of the Sky and Wielder of thunderbolt
- Fathered many characters in mythology



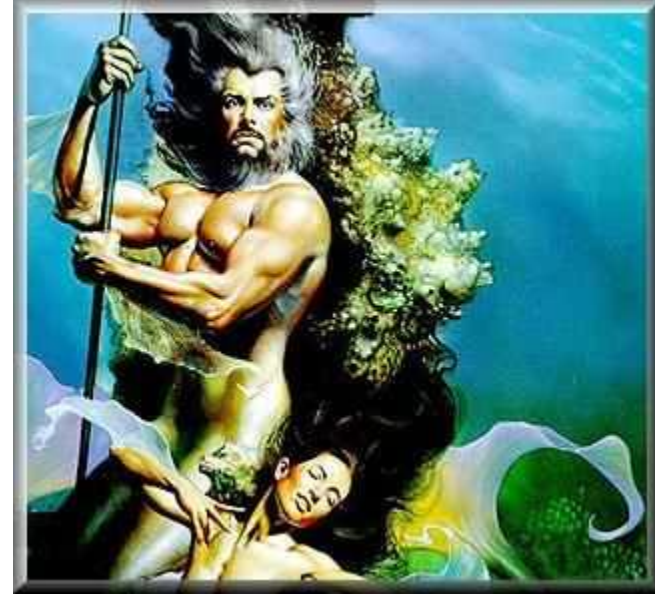
Hera

- Roman Name: Juno
- Wife of Zeus
- Protector of marriage and married women



Poseidon

- Roman Name: Neptune
- God of the Seas and Waters
- Gave first horse to man
- “The Earthshaker”



Hades

- Roman Name: Pluto
- God of the Underworld/Wealth
- Kidnapped Persephone



Athena



- Roman Name: Minerva
- Goddess of Wisdom and War
- Protector of Civilized Life
- Sprang whole from Zeus's head
- One of 3 Virgin goddesses, along with Artemis and Hestia

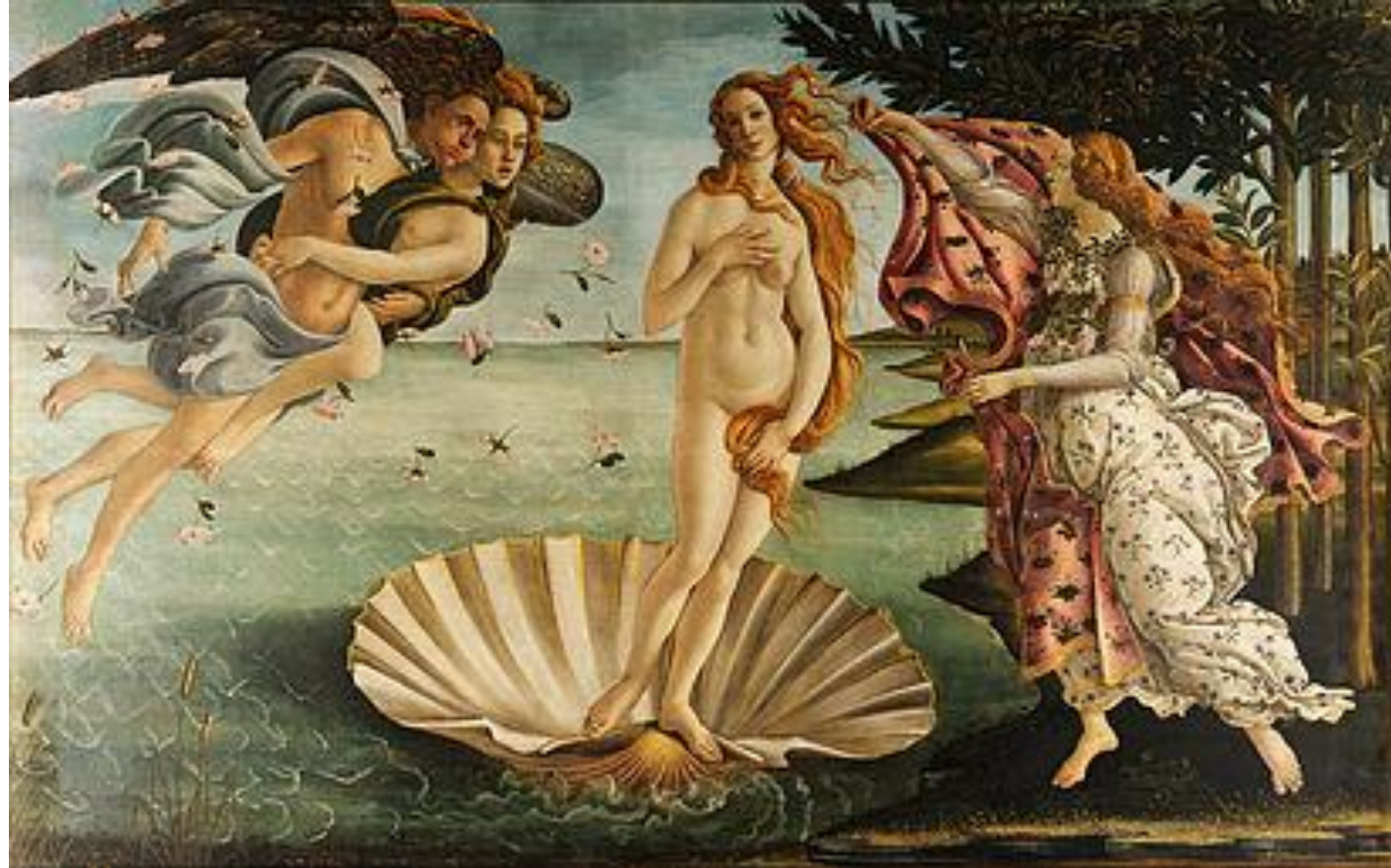
Phoebus Apollo



- God of Truth and Light
- “Most Greek of all the Greek gods”
- Musician, Archer, and Healer
- Link between man and gods
- Twin brother to Artemis, Goddess of the Wild and Hunt

Aphrodite

- Roman name: Venus
- Goddess of Love and Beauty
- Laughter-loving and irresistibly lovely
- Married to Hephaestus, the lame and ugly god of the forge



Hermes

- Roman name: Mercury
- Messenger of the Gods
- Began as Trickster Thief
- Patron of Traders and Travelers
- Escorts souls to afterlife



Nymphs

- Spiritual maidens who animate local nature
- Enchants through song and dance

In *The Odyssey*,

- Calypso tries to keep Odysseus on her island to make him her immortal husband
- Circe known for her magic, potions, and herbs



Sirens

- Believed to be beautiful but dangerous creatures
- Lured sailors with enchanting voices to their doom
- No one knew what they looked like because none ever returned

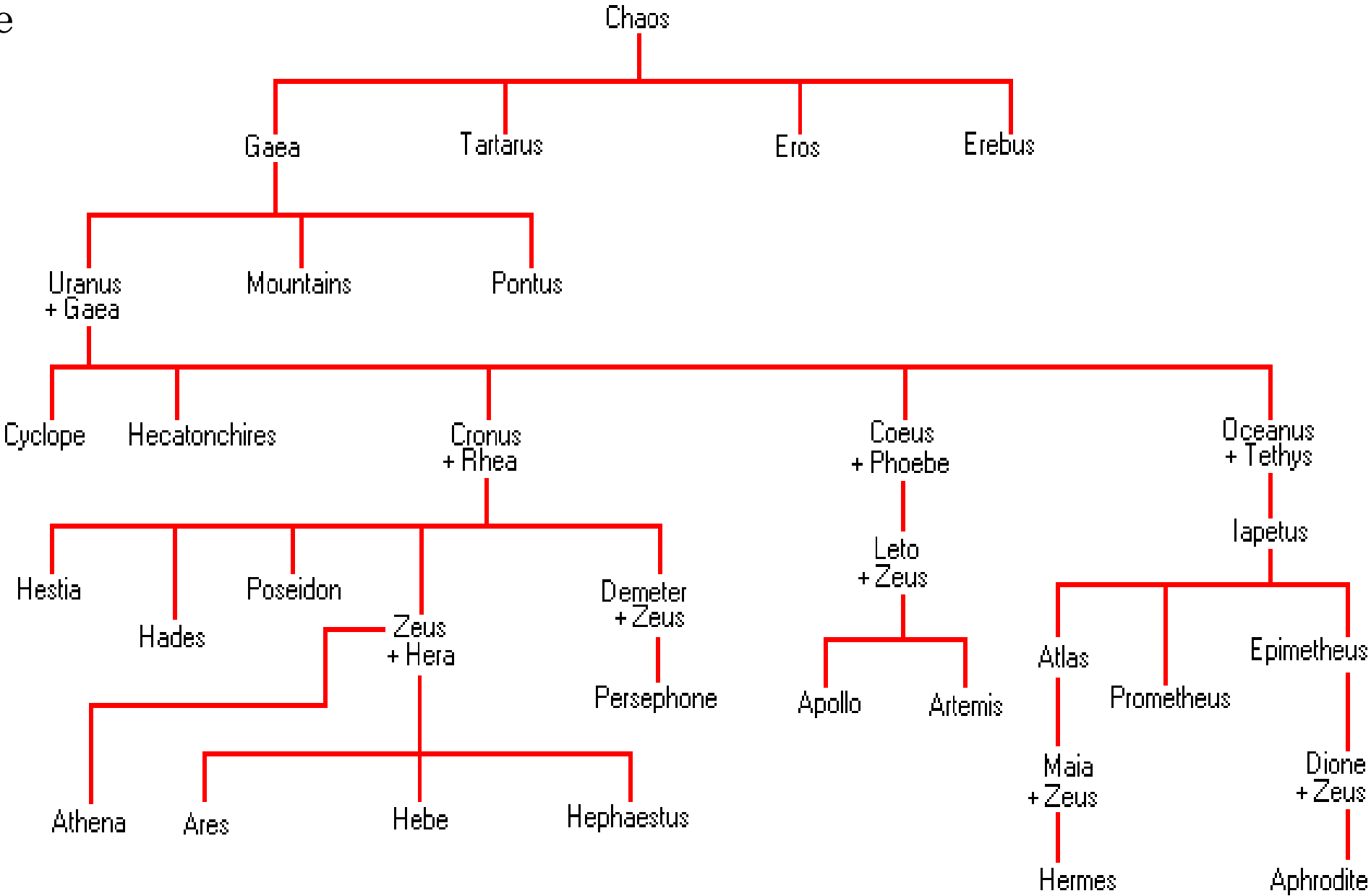


The Cyclopes

- Gigantic one-eyed monsters
- Polyphemus is the most known (Odyssey)
- Homer states they are sons of Poseidon



Family Tree



Summary (2-3 sentences)

Something that is becoming clear to me about Greek mythology and lore...