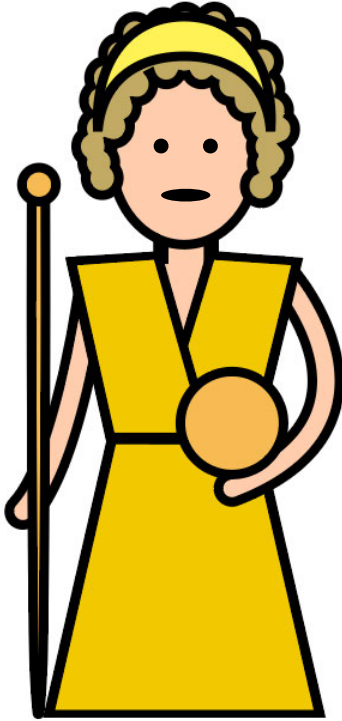


HERA



Hera was the queen of the gods, and considered to be very powerful. She was married to Zeus (who was also her brother) and was the mother of Ares and Hephaestus. Her symbol was a peacock. She was the goddess of marriage, women, childbirth and family. She also held power over the skies, and could bring blue skies or thunderstorms.

Hera was angry and jealous that Zeus had children with other goddesses, and often took revenge on them. One example is how she tried to kill Zeus's son, Heracles, when he was a baby, by sending two poisonous snakes into his bed. She failed, so when he was an adult, she used her powers to drive him mad, and in this state he killed his family. As punishment, Heracles was forced to perform the Twelve Labours, most of which included capturing or slaying beasts. Hera made these as difficult as possible, hoping that Heracles would be killed.

DEMETER

Demeter was the goddess of fertility and the harvest. She was very important to farmers in particular, as they depended on good crops for food and survival. Demeter could control whether the crops would grow or not, and had some power over the weather too. Her symbol was a sheaf of wheat.

Demeter had a daughter with Zeus called Persephone, who was the goddess of springtime and vegetation. When Hades took Persephone to the Underworld to make her his wife, Demeter became very sad. She refused to help the crops grow, and as a result there was a great famine. Eventually it was decided that Persephone only had to spend four months in the Underworld with Hades. These four months are how the Greeks explained the winter season, when nothing grew.





HEPHAESTUS

Hephaestus was the Greek god of fire, blacksmiths, craftsmen and volcanoes. His symbols were a hammer and tongs. He was extremely skilled in metalwork and stonework, and crafted tools for the other gods in his forge. One-eyed monsters called Cyclopes were his assistants. Despite being kind and hardworking, he had a limp and the other gods considered him ugly.

Hephaestus was the son of Hera. When he was born and she saw that he would have a limp, Hera was disgusted and threw him from the mountain. Hephaestus landed in the ocean, and was rescued by sea nymphs who raised him in a cave underwater. Zeus eventually learned of his existence, and allowed him to live on Mount Olympus.

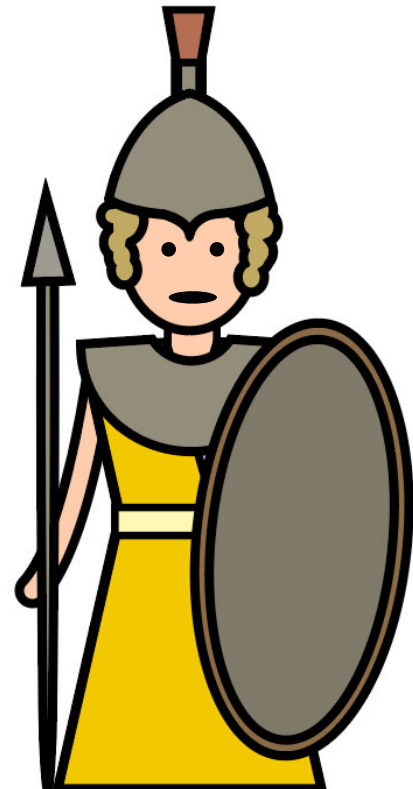
He was married to the goddess Aphrodite.

ATHENA

Athena was the goddess of wisdom, war and crafts. One of her symbols was an owl. She was one of the most intelligent of the Olympians, and often helped out heroes on their adventures and war strategies. Athena invented many useful items, such as the ship, the chariot and the plough. She also invented the crafts of weaving and pottery.

Zeus was Athena's father. Zeus swallowed her mother whilst she was pregnant with Athena. She was born and began to grow inside Zeus's head. He got a really bad headache and ordered Hephaestus to crack open his skull with an axe. A fully grown Athena jumped out!

Athena was the patron goddess of Athens. She invented the olive tree and gave it to the city.





ZEUS

Zeus was the king of the gods, and both the brother and husband of the goddess Hera. He was the god of the sky and thunder, and his symbol was a thunderbolt. As the king of the gods, he was the most powerful. He could throw lightning bolts, control the weather, mimic people's voices and even shape shift into a human or animal. If anyone angered him, he would turn them into an animal.

Several of the Olympian gods were Zeus's children: Ares, Apollo, Athena, Aphrodite, and Dionysus. Poseidon and Hades were his brothers, and Demeter was his sister.

Zeus rescued his brothers and sisters from the stomach of his father, Cronos, after he ate them to stop them becoming too powerful and overthrowing him. A long war between Zeus and his father began, which Zeus eventually won.

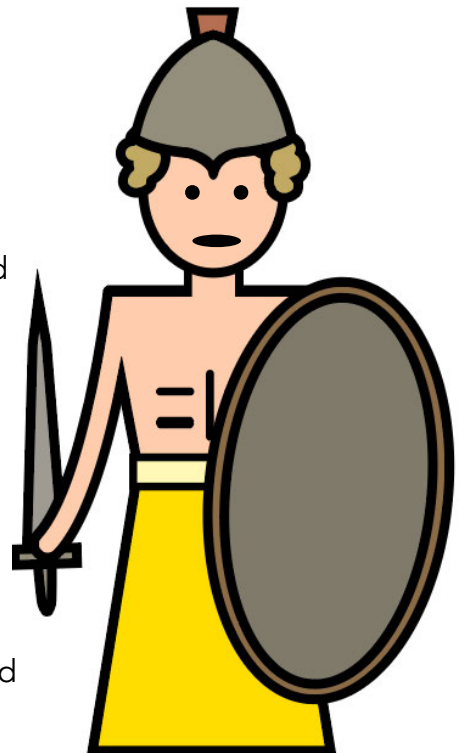
ARES

Ares was known as the god of war and violence. His symbols included a spear, and he was considered a cruel yet cowardly god. His parents were Zeus and Hera.

He was a superior warrior, causing destruction and death wherever he went. Whereas his sister, Athena (the goddess of war), used her skills of strategy to help one side win, Ares didn't care who won, relishing only the bloodshed.

Ares never married, but he did fall in love with Aphrodite. Her husband, Hephaestus found out, and trapped them in an unbreakable metal web.

He had several children, including Phobos, the god of fear, Deimos, the god of terror, Harmonia, the goddess of harmony, and Eros, the god of love.





APHRODITE

Aphrodite was the goddess of love and beauty. Her symbol was an apple. She owned a magical belt that, when worn, caused people to fall in love with the wearer. She also had the power to make bickering couples fall in love with each other again.

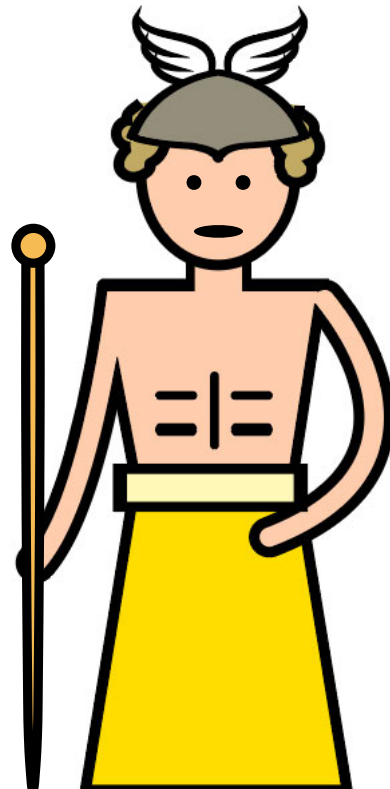
Because of her beauty, many of the gods were in love with her. In order to prevent a battle breaking out between them all, Zeus arranged a marriage between Aphrodite and Hephaestus, a lame, and some considered ugly, god.

In one myth, three of the goddesses, Hera, Athena and Aphrodite, all wanted a golden apple that was labelled 'To the Fairest'. Zeus decided that a mortal named Paris would make the decision of who received the apple. He chose Aphrodite.

HERMES

Hermes was the god of travel and roads. He was Zeus's son. His symbols included winged sandals and a winged cap. His main role on Mount Olympus was to serve as messenger of the gods. His main power was his speed - he was able to travel very quickly between the realms of the gods, humans and the Underworld.

Hermes was known as both clever and cunning. Once, he stole some cattle from Apollo. On his way back with the animals, he found a tortoise shell and created a musical instrument, the lyre, from it. When Apollo found out that Hermes had stolen his cattle, he went to demand them back. However, as he approached, he heard Hermes playing the lyre, and was so impressed that he let Hermes keep the cattle in exchange for the lyre.



DIONYSUS



Dionysus was the god of wine and the theatre. Wine was very important to the Greeks and played a large part in their culture. His powers included making wine, and ensuring grape vines grew. He could also transform himself into various animals. He was the only Olympian to have a mortal mother (Zeus was his father). Hera, Zeus's wife, became very jealous. She had him ripped to shreds. However, his grandmother found the pieces and brought him back to life. Eventually, Hera relented and accepted him onto Mount Olympus.

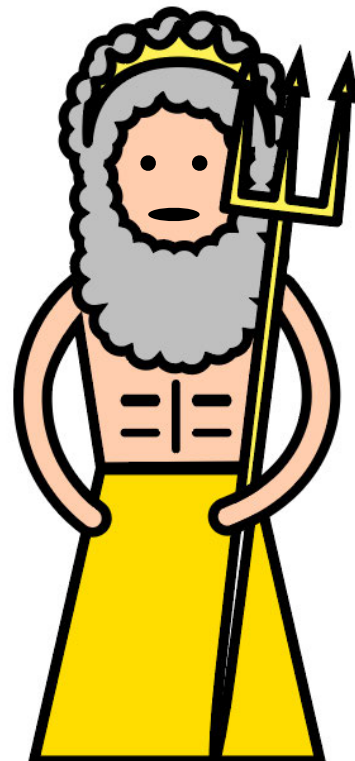
Dionysus fell in love with and married a mortal princess named Ariadne.

Dionysus granted King Midas the power to turn anything he touched into gold.

POSEIDON

Poseidon was god of the sea, earthquakes and horses. He ruled over the oceans and all bodies of water. He could create storms to sink ships, or calm the waters to help them along. He could also cause earthquakes. His symbol was a trident (a three-pronged spear). He was one of the few Olympians that did not reside on Mount Olympus - instead he lived in a coral palace under the sea. He was the brother of Zeus.

According to Greek mythology, Poseidon created the horse. He fell in love with the goddess Demeter, and in order to impress her, decided to create the most beautiful animal. He spent a long time perfecting his creation. When he was finished, however, he found that he was no longer in love with Demeter.





ARTEMIS

Artemis was the goddess of the hunt, archery, the wilderness and the moon. She was the twin sister of the god Apollo, and her father was Zeus. She spent much of her time in the forest, surrounded by animals. She was a perfect shot with a bow and arrow. She also had the ability to turn herself and others into animals, and could heal wounds and diseases.

In one myth, two giant brothers began to grow so huge and powerful that even the gods began to fear them. Artemis realised that the two giants could only be killed by each other. Whilst the brothers were hunting, Artemis transformed into a deer and jumped in between them. They both threw their spears at her, but she dodged them, and they ended up killing each other instead.

APOLLO

Apollo was the god of music, poetry, light and prophecy. His father was Zeus, and his twin sister was the goddess Artemis. His symbols included a lyre, and a bow and arrow. He had many special powers including the ability to see into the future, and to control light. He could also heal people, or cause illness and disease. Like his sister, he had a perfect aim with a bow and arrow.

When Apollo (and Artemis) was born, Hera was furious. She sent a dragon to hunt down and kill him. Luckily, Apollo was fed a special concoction that made him grow into a man in a single day. He killed the dragon using magical arrows made for him by the god Hephaestus.



Who Were the Ancient Greeks?

Mild: Answer the questions for 3 Gods.
Spicy: Answer the questions for 6 Gods.
Hot: Answer the questions for 9 or more Gods.

Greek Gods Question Sheet



ZEUS

- What was Zeus' symbol?
- From whose stomach did Zeus rescue his brothers and sisters?
- Name both of Zeus's brothers.



ARES

- Which Olympian goddess was Ares' half-sister?
- What was Ares the god of?
- Can you name one of Ares' children, and what they were the god/goddess of?



DIONYSUS

- Dionysus was god of wine and the ?
- What special power did Dionysus grant King Midas?
- Who did Dionysus fall in love with and marry?



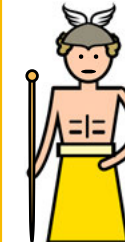
HERA

- Which two Olympians were Hera's sons?
- Which of Zeus' sons did she try to kill with poisonous snakes?
- Hera was the goddess of marriage, women, childbirth and ?



ARTEMIS

- Who was Artemis' twin brother?
- Which weapon was Artemis a perfect shot with?
- Artemis was the goddess of the hunt, archery, the wilderness and ?



HERMES

- What was Hermes' main role on Mount Olympus?
- What could Hermes do that made him a perfect messenger?
- What did he create the musical instrument, the lyre, from?



POSEIDON

- What animal did Poseidon create?
- Where did Poseidon live?
- What was Poseidon's symbol?



APOLLO

- Which musical instrument was one of Apollo's symbols?
- Who sent a dragon to kill Apollo?
- Apollo was the god of prophecy, which meant he had the power to see into the ?



APHRODITE

- What power did Aphrodite's magical belt have?
- Who did Zeus arrange for Aphrodite to marry?
- Aphrodite was the goddess of love and ?



DEMETER

- Which group of humans was Demeter very important to?
- What was Demeter's daughter called?
- Why did Demeter cause a famine by refusing to help the crops grow?



ATHENA

- Which animal was one of Athena's symbols?
- Which crafts did she invent?
- Which city was she the patron goddess of?



HEPHAESTUS

- What physical deformity did Hephaestus have?
- What was Hephaestus skilled in?
- Which Olympian goddess was Hephaestus married to?