

Greek gods

ANCIENT GREECE

Learning objective:

To know about religion in ancient Greece

The ancient Greeks had a **polytheistic** religion.

What do you think this means?

HINT 1: THE PREFIX '**POLY**' COMES FROM THE GREEK WORDS 'POLLUS' AND 'POLLOI', WHICH MEAN 'MUCH' AND 'MANY'.

HINT 2: '**THEISTIC**' MEANS A BELIEF IN THE EXISTENCE OF GOD.



A **polytheistic** religion is one where its followers believe in not just one god, but many. The ancient Greeks had a god for every aspect of their lives, from farming and fishing to love and war.



PLEASING THE GODS WAS ESSENTIAL - THE ANCIENT GREEKS BELIEVED THAT HAPPY GODS WERE HELPFUL AND GENEROUS, WHILST UNHAPPY GODS WERE VENGEFUL AND WOULD PUNISH THEM.

Let's explore this idea further...



DEMETER

GODDESS OF FERTILITY AND THE HARVEST

DEMETER COULD CONTROL WHETHER THE CROPS WOULD GROW OR NOT, SO SHE WAS A VERY IMPORTANT GODDESS FOR NOT JUST FARMERS, BUT ALL OF ANCIENT GREECE. IF THE CROPS DID NOT GROW, THERE WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH FOOD TO EAT AND PEOPLE WOULD STARVE.

POSEIDON

GOD OF THE SEA, EARTHQUAKES AND HORSES

POSEIDON WAS AN IMPORTANT GOD FOR FISHERMEN AND SAILORS, AND THEY PRAYED TO HIM FOR SAFE TRAVELS. WITH HIS POWER, POSEIDON COULD CREATE STORMS TO SINK SHIPS, OR CALM THE WATERS TO GIVE SAILORS A SAFE PASSAGE.



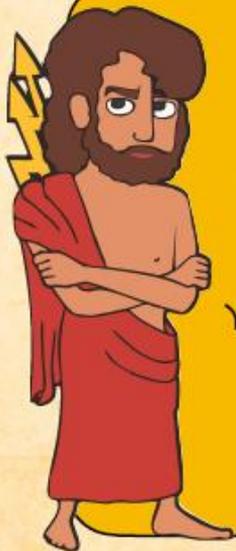
The ancient Greeks had special places at home, usually in the courtyard, where they set up an altar to pray and make daily offerings to their chosen gods.

There were also public shrines and temples for individual gods. Within them were statues of the god or goddess, which were cared for by priests. Priests were regarded as very important people, as it was believed that they could talk to the gods.

IT WAS DIFFICULT TO BECOME A PRIEST - YOU COULD ONLY BE MADE ONE BY A DYING PRIEST, OR INHERIT THE JOB FROM A PARENT WHO WAS ALREADY A PRIEST.



The ancient Greeks often held religious festivals in honour of a particular god. These usually included a parade to the temple, offerings of food or an animal sacrifice, and then a feast.



THE FIRST ANCIENT **OLYMPIC GAMES** WERE HELD TO HONOUR **ZEUS**, KING OF THE GODS. THEY WERE HELD EVERY FOUR YEARS FROM 776 BC. OVER THE YEARS, MORE AND MORE SPORTING EVENTS WERE ADDED.

THE **PANATHENAIC GAMES** WERE ALSO HELD EVERY FOUR YEARS IN ATHENS, TO HONOUR THE GODDESS **ATHENA**. AS WELL AS SPORTING EVENTS, THERE WERE ALSO POETRY AND MUSICAL COMPETITIONS.



The ancient Greeks had many stories, or **myths**, about the gods. Often these tales were a way of explaining an aspect of nature, such as earthquakes or the changing of the seasons.



PERSEPHONE WAS THE GODDESS OF SPRINGTIME AND VEGETATION. THE WINTER MONTHS WERE EXPLAINED BY A MYTH WHERE THE GODDESS HAD TO LIVE IN THE UNDERWORLD FOR PART OF THE YEAR.

IN ANCIENT GREECE, EARTHQUAKES WERE QUITE COMMON. SEVERAL MYTHS TOLD OF **POSEIDON'S** FURY CAUSING TSUNAMIS AND EARTHQUAKES. ONE OF THE GOD'S NICKNAMES WAS 'EARTH-SHAKER'.



Storytellers used to travel from village to village, telling myths to the people.

Mount Olympus, the highest mountain in Greece, was believed to be the home of the **twelve** most important gods and goddesses - the **Olympians**.

Zeus was the king of the gods, **Hera** was the queen of the gods, and the other ten Olympians were all related in some way. They were believed to have special powers, but also human qualities and emotions, meaning they could fall in love, argue, have children, etc.



A modern day photograph of Mount Olympus

TODAY YOU ARE GOING TO USE YOUR RESEARCH SKILLS TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT EACH OF THE
TWELVE OLYMPIANS.



PLENARY

Choose **one** of these questions to discuss with a partner:

IF YOU COULD SPEND A DAY WITH ONE OF THE OLYMPIAN GODS OR GODDESSES, WHO WOULD IT BE, AND WHY?



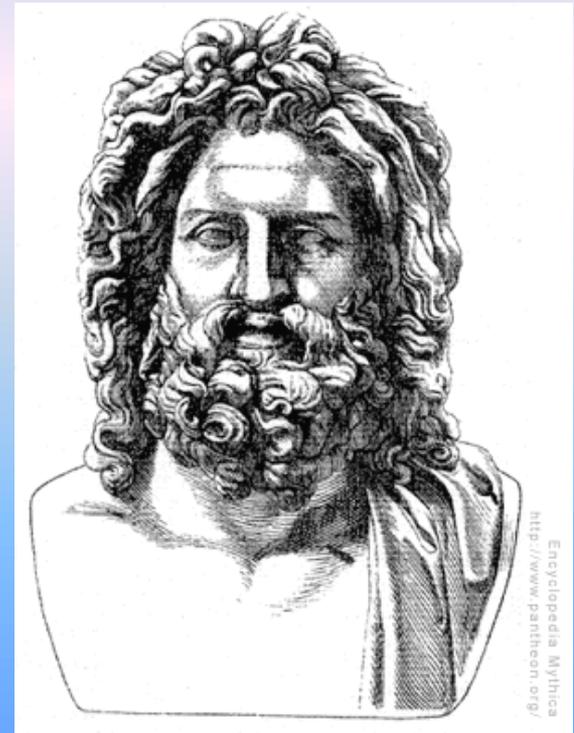
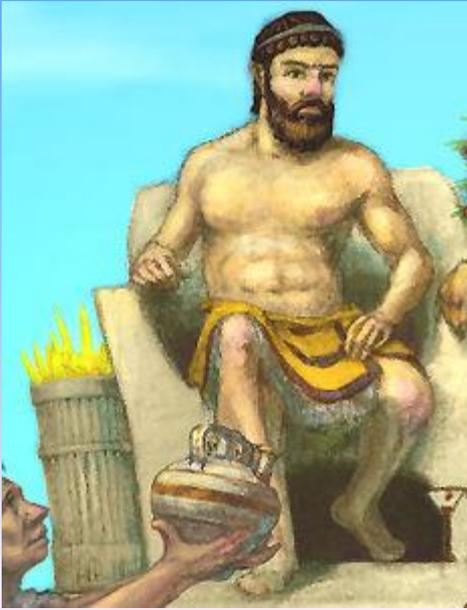
WHICH OLYMPIAN GOD OR GODDESS DO YOU THINK WOULD MAKE THE BEST LEADER OF OUR COUNTRY NOW, AND WHY?

ANCIENT GREECE

Here is some information about each of the gods. Find out more facts about the Twelve Olympians and create a pamphlet.

Zeus

Zeus was the supreme god of the Olympians. He was the god of the sky. His weapon was a thunderbolt.



Hera

Hera was the goddess of marriage. Hera was the wife of Zeus and Queen of the Olympians. Hera's symbol is the peacock.



Aphrodite

Aphrodite was the goddess of love, beauty and fertility.

She was also a patroness of sailors. Symbols associated with Aphrodite include the swan, the dolphin, and the rose.



Apollo

Apollo was the god of prophecy, healing, light and music. His symbols are a musical instrument called a lyre and a bow and arrows.



Hermes

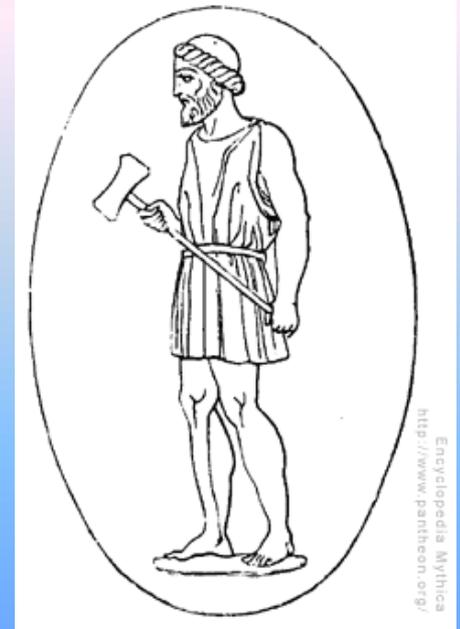
Hermes was messenger of the gods. His symbol is a caduceus, which is a special staff.





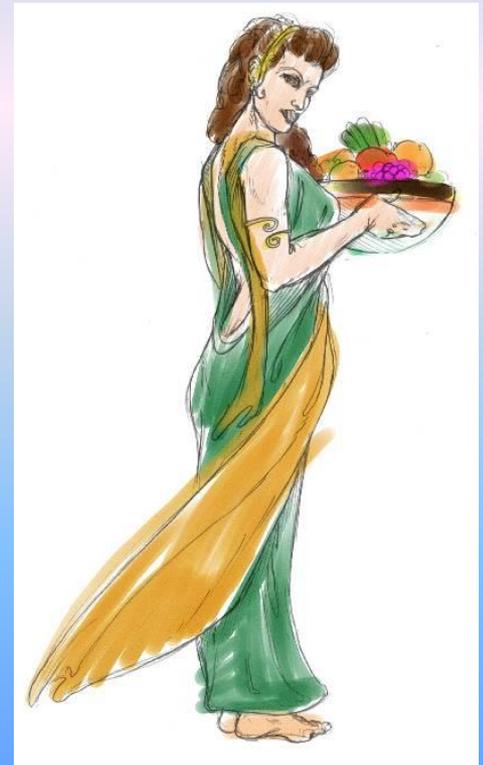
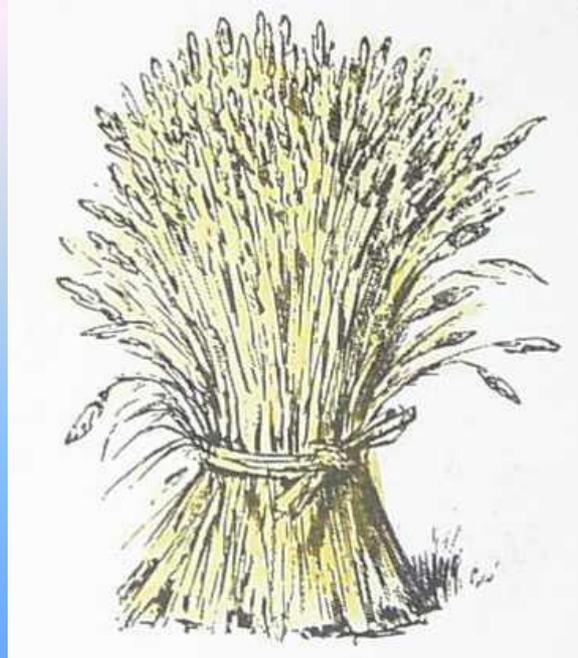
Hephaestus

Hephaestus was the god of fire and crafts and hence the god of blacksmiths. His symbols and weapons are fire, the axe, pincers and the hammer.



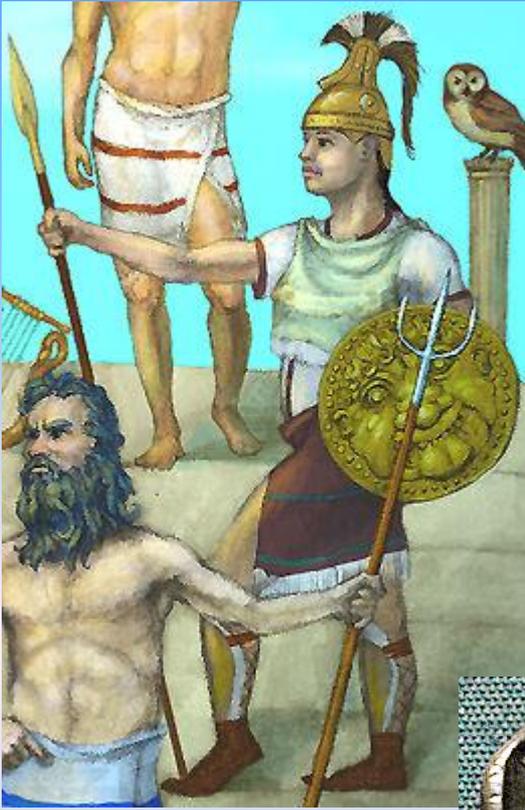
Demeter

Demeter was the goddess of agriculture. She is often shown carrying a sheaf of grain. Her symbol is a sheaf of barley or wheat.



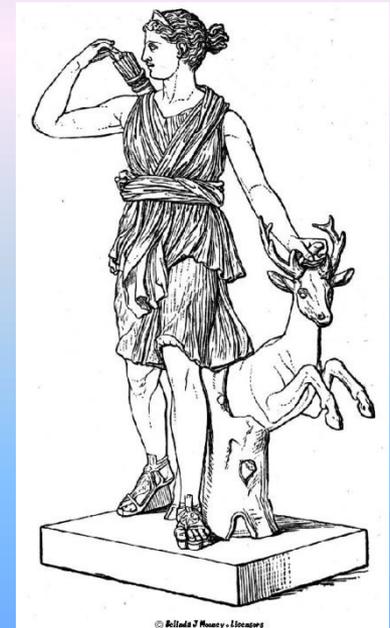
Athena

Athena was goddess of crafts, domestic arts and war. Her symbols are an owl, a shield and an olive branch.



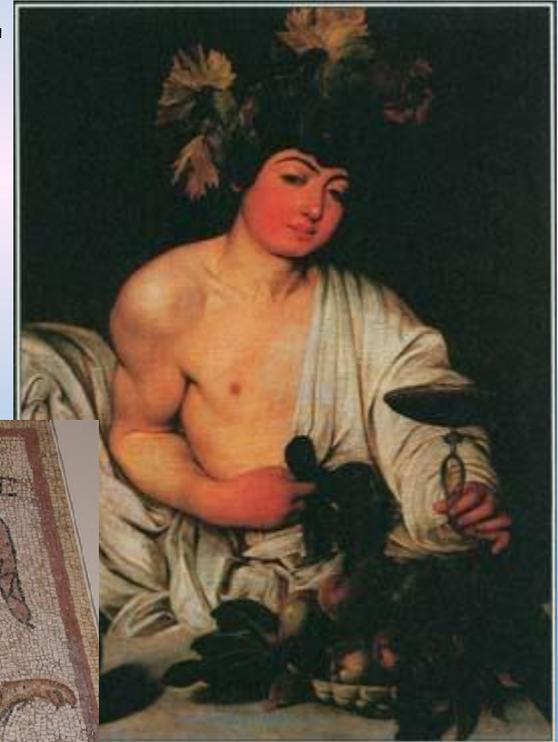
Artemis

Artemis was the goddess of the hunt and the moon. Her symbols are the bow, the crescent moon and the hound.



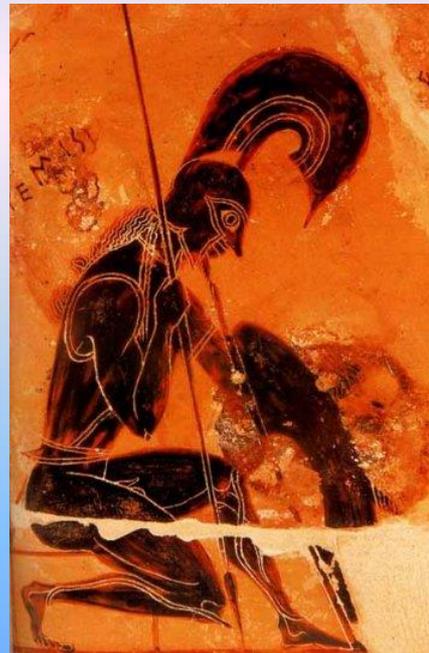
Dionysus

Dionysus was the god of wine. His symbols include ivy, the snake and grapes.



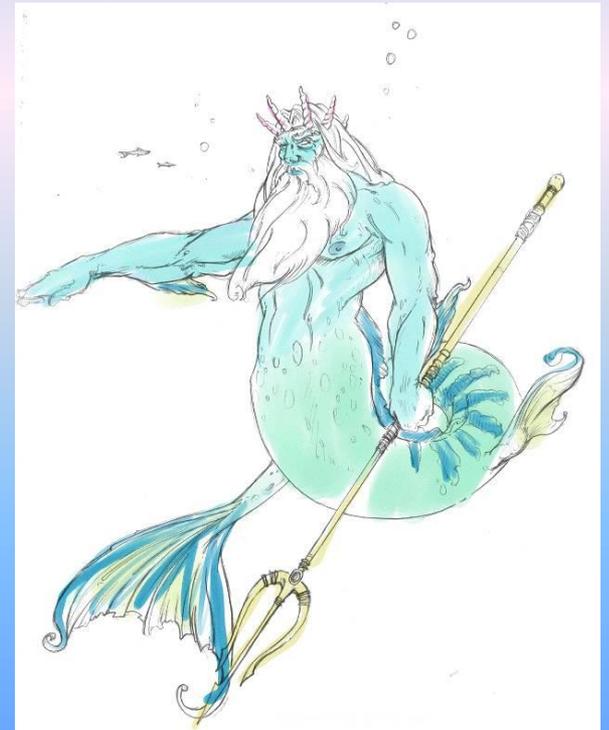
Ares

Ares was god of war. His symbols are the spear and the helmet.



Poseidon

Poseidon was the god of the sea, earthquakes and horses. His symbols are the three-pronged trident and the dolphin.



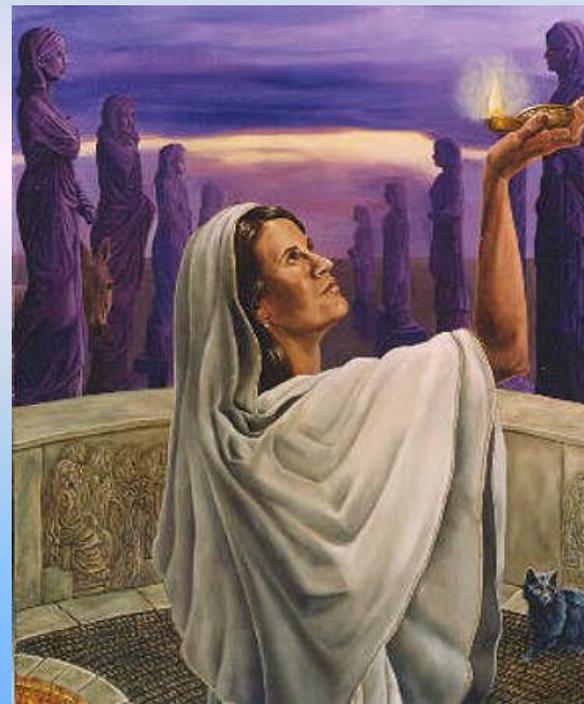
Hades

Hades was the god of the underworld. His symbols are a helmet, metals and jewels.



Hestia

Hestia is the goddess of the hearth. She also protects families. Her symbol is fire.



French

- Which words did we learn last week?
- Can you remember how 'some' is written in French?

French Vocabulary

des fruit

de la glace.

du fromage.

du riz.

des légumes

des fraises

des céréales

des saucisses

du poulet.

du oeuf.

du chocolat.

du jambon.

Today we are going to learn new words...

Sandwich

Pizza

Le petit dejeuner

du bacon

du pancake

des raisin

de la pêche

What do these words mean in French?

Je or J' (when in front of a vowel).

Il

Elle

**Qu'est-ce qu'elle
mange?**



**Qu'est-ce qu'elle
mange?** 

**Elle mange des
céréales.** 



**Qu'est-ce qu'il
mange?** 🔊

**Il mange de la
pizza.** 🔊





**Qu'est-ce qu'elle
mange?** 

**Elle mange de la
glace.** 



**Qu'est-ce qu'elle
mange?** 

**Elle mange un
sandwich.**

Le petit déjeuner



L' œuf (m)



du bacon



du pancake





**des
raisin**



de la pêche



Your work this week is to write a question and then an answer. Repeat this 10 times. Using the words we have practiced today. Write them once with the french word for he and **she**.

Qu'est-ce qu'il mange? Il mange de la pizza.

Qu'est-ce qu'elle mange? Elle mange les fraises.

Shall we play a game? Bango! Write 6 words that we have learnt on a piece of paper. Then the leader will say a word, if your word matches then cross it off. The first one to cross off all the words will be the winner.

Outdoor Home Learning



Open the link to investigate this further...

Whittle a Critter

Find yourself a stick and use a potato peeler to whittle a critter. Use sharpies to add detail to the creation. If you can't get outside make a temporary creation from a carrot or a potato, take a photo before it gets eaten!

<https://www.ltl.org.uk/resources/a-little-whittling/>



Science



Why not try some Wizard Science?

★ I asked my friend Dr Jo, from the School of Science, if there were any science experiments that you could try out at home, that were a little like potions. She has come up with four great ones for you to try.

Make sure you take care and always do these with an adult. You may have to add things to your shopping list for some of the experiments.



Wizard's Potions

Edible Fizz



Making sherbert

- 1 teaspoon sodium bicarbonate
- 1 teaspoon citric acid
- 7 teaspoons icing sugar

Mix well together and then place a small amount on your tongue. What happens? What can you feel?

Fizzing Potions



Bicarb and Vinegar 'volcanoes'

- 1 teaspoon sodium bicarbonate
- pour in a little vinegar or lemon juice

Bubbles of carbon dioxide are produced and can be seen as the effervescent fizzing! This one isn't for tasting!

Colour changing Potions



Red cabbage pH indicator

- Chop up a little red cabbage
- Pour over boiling water to cover
- Leave to cool
- Strain the liquid

Place a small amount of the liquid into a few small glasses. Add vinegar to one, sodium bicarbonate to another. What happens?

Floating Potions



Density jar

- Pour different liquids into a tall glass – can you get them to float?
 - Try golden syrup, cooking oil, water, vinegar, alcohol or different concentrations of sugar or salt solution
- Can you get objects to float on each layer?



- You can read lots more about these experiments here:
- <https://cutt.ly/syOqV9H>