

The Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Greece

In this chapter you will be learning about the Greek gods and goddesses, the Twelve Titans and the Olympians. You will also find fun facts hidden amongst these pages, but be prepared to listen there will be questions at the end.

Glossary

Titans: were the sons and daughters of Father Heaven (Ouranos) and Mother Earth (Gaea). They were super natural beings.
Immortal: Can never die or be killed.

The Titans

Before the world began blackness went on and on. Mother Earth (Gaea) created twelve **titans (ty-tan-s)**, Cronos, Rhea, Oceanus, Tethys, Hyperion, Theia, Mnemosyne, Themis, Coeus, Phoebe, Crius and Iapetus.

These twelve Titans created all of the Greek gods we know today. Titans were also gods.

Cronos is the god of time and ages, Rhea, the goddess of ease, comfort and motherhood and Oceanus the god of fresh water. Tethys is the goddess of healthy fresh water, Hyperion the god of light. Theia is the goddess of sight and blue skies, Mnemosyne the goddess of memory and remembrance; she is also the inventor of language. Themis is the god of law and order, Coeus the god of wisdom and knowledge and Phoebe, the goddess of wise decisions. Crius is the god of constellations and the year calendar and finally, Iapetus the god of mortal lifespan.

All Titans were **immortal (im-more-tal)**. They are the beginning of the Greek religion that has lasted millions of years, but today there is a similar religion called Hellenism.

Did You Know?

That most of the gods, goddesses and Titans married their brothers or sisters.



Gaea (Mother Earth)

The Olympians

Glossary

Olympians: are the twelve gods and goddess that live on Mount Olympus.

Lyre: a "U" shaped harp with usually about four strings.

The **Olympians**(uh-lim- pee-ans) were the sons and daughters Cronos and Rhea, but some were the sons and daughters of Hera and Zeus. The twelve Olympians are Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Demeter, Athena, Apollo, Artemis, Ares,

Aphrodite, Hephaestus, Hermes and Dionysus.



The twelve Olympians

Zeus is the King of the gods and goddesses. He married Hera who was also his sister. He is the god of weather; his symbol is the lightning bolt.

Hera is the Queen of the gods and goddesses. Her brother is Zeus, who is also her husband. She is the goddess of woman and childbirth.

Aphrodite is the goddess of love and beauty. Her appearance is what ever you find most beautiful other wise she has blonde hair and blue eyes. She married Hephaestus. She was born from the foam of the Sea.

Artemis is the goddess of the Moon and wild animals. She the daughter of Zeus and Leto, her twin Brother is Apollo.

Apollo is the Son of Zeus and Leto, his twin Sister is Artemis. He is the god of the Sun, truth, music and dance. He had two symbols the bow and arrow when they were at war and the **lyre**(lie-er) when there were at peace.



Apollo's Lyre

Ares is the son of Zeus and Hera. He is the god of war; he also is cruel and bloodthirsty. His Symbol is the sword. He is one of Hera and Zeus's children.

Hephaestus is the god of fire, volcanoes and blacksmiths. His Wife is Aphrodite, his father is thought to be Zeus and his mother is Hera.

Hermes is the son of Zeus and Maia. He is the god of travel, business and sport. He guides dead souls to the Underworld.

Poseidon is the god of the sea, earthquakes and horses. His wife is Amphitrite. He is a brother to Zeus and Hera. His symbol is a trident. The city of Athens chose Athena as their protector instead of Poseidon.

Athena is the goddess of art, wisdom and war. She taught people how to do arts and crafts. The Parthenon was built to honor her, inside there was a forty-foot tall gold and ivory statue of her. She was born from Zeus's head dressed in full armor for battle. The city of Athens is



The statue of Athena

named after her. Her symbol is an owl. She became the protector of Athens instead of Poseidon.

Demeter is a sister to Zeus. She is the goddess of grain.

Hestia brother is Zeus. She is the goddess of the fireplace, which is the symbol of a house. Dionysus took her place on the council when he became more popular.

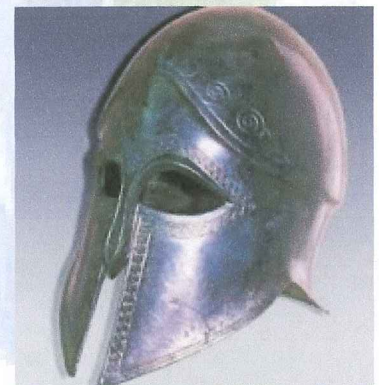
Dionysus is the god of the grape vine, theater

and wine. He took Hestia's place on the council when he became more popular.

Hades is not one of the twelve Olympians, but he is one of the three most well known gods. He is the god of the Underworld. He made sure the dead souls stayed in the Underworld. His wife is Persephone.

Did You Know?

That the Greeks feared Hades so much that they called him "Pluton" which means "The Rich".



Hades Helm of Darkness

Here are some other major gods and goddesses.

Chaos	Is the beginning. It is also never ending blackness.
Pontus	God of sea, father to sea creatures.
Thanatos	God of death.
Tartarus	God of the deepest place in the Underworld.
Nyx	Goddess of the night.
Nike	Goddess of victory.
Nemesis	Goddess of revenge and balance.
Eros	God of love, also Known as Cupid.

Test Your Knowledge

1. Why do you think the gods married their Brother or Sister?
- Was it to keep the blood within the family?

Write a descriptive paragraph on why you think they did this.

2. What god or goddess would you be?

Write to paragraphs on your choice, give reasoning.

3. Why do you think the Greeks had many gods and goddesses instead of one superior god?

Write a page on your thoughts.

4. Why do you think the gods and goddesses had symbols?

Please write two paragraphs.

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