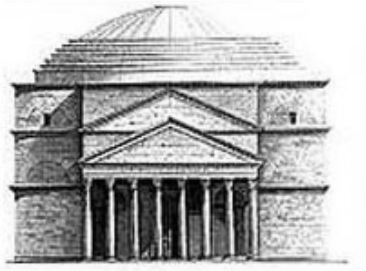
# Mythology Virtual Field Trip



**The Big Questions**: *What meanings did myths about gods, goddesses, and heroes have for the ancient Greeks? What meanings do the Greek myths have for us today?*

**Learning Goals**

1. Students will learn the origins of Greek Mythology.
2. Students will understand the importance of mythology to ancient peoples.
3. Students will be able to explain the influences Greek Mythology plays in art, science, and language.
4. Students will explore Greek myths and myths from other cultures and make comparisons among the myths.
5. Students will write a description and illustrate an original mythological creature.
6. Students will create a newsletter containing information about mythological beings and create an original god or goddess.

## *Tour Stop 1: Greek Mythology – What's it All About?*

**Introduction to Mythology**
http://www.artsmia.org/world-myths/whatismyth.html
Things to look for –

- What is the definition of a myth?
- What is the difference between a myth and a legend?

**Origins of Greek Mythology**
http://www.messagenet.com/myths/neomyth.html
Things to look for –

- Who were the Olympians and who believed in them?
- When were the myths started?
- What do Homer, Hesiod and The Homeric Hymns have in common?

**Greek Mythology Overviews**
http://techcenter.davidson.k12.nc.us/spring5/goddess2/history.htm
http://carlos.emory.edu/ODYSSEY/GREECE/myth.html
http://www.mrdowling.com/701-mythology.html
Things to look for -

- What purpose did the myths serve for the ancient Greek people?
- What were the oracles and in what ways were they used by the Greeks?

**Persephony Game**
http://carlos.emory.edu/ODYSSEY/GREECE/myth.html
Things to do -

- Click on the text "Play the Persephony Game" near the bottom of the page. Be sure to read the story first then play the game.
- Write down your answers to the questions. How many questions did you answer correctly?

**The Immortals**
http://www.messagenet.com/myths/immortals.html
Things to do –

- Read about three or four of the Immortals. Select any TWO and write a short summary of who the diety was and what powers he or she had

**Greek vs Roman Gods**
http://www.mythweb.com/gods/index.html
http://www.messagenet.com/myths/names.html
Things to do –

- Pick six gods or goddess and list their Greek and Roman names

**The Lifestyle and Beliefs of the Ancient Greeks**
http://techcenter.davidson.k12.nc.us/spring5/goddess2/Influences.htm
Things to do -

- List a total of six facts, beliefs or customs of people of ancient Greece.
- How might these facts, beliefs or customs influence the mythology of those people?

**Heroic Myths Cartoons**
http://www.mythweb.com/heroes/heroes.html
Things to look for -

- Read several of the cartoon stories. Note how the adventures are organized by topic heading
- Note the well-explained actions described in the adventures. This will help you prepare for the site souvenir

## *Site Souvenir – Sports News Report*

Now you get to be a sports writer! From all of the reading you have done at this stop, select a Greek god, goddess, or mythological hero and write a blow-by-blow news report of one of their battles or adventures. Remember the 5 W's and an H of news reporting.

## *Tour Stop 2: Influences of Greek Mythology*

**Mythology's Influences on Language:**

**Etymology of Mythology**
http://www.pantheon.org/miscellaneous/origin_months.html
http://www.yashanet.com/library/secular-months.html

- Look up months to see which ones have myth origins

**Encyclopedia Mythica**
http://www.pantheon.org

**Word Origins**
http://www.geocities.com/hestia624/wordorigins.html
Things to do –
Words we use today have their roots in mythology. Find the meanings of the following:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arachnid | Echo | Herculean | Narcissist | Siren song |
| Achilles heel | Adonis | Atlas | Midas touch | Pan (panic) |
| Titans (Titanic) | volcano | hypnotic | Tantalus (tantalize) | Trojan horse |

**Mythology in Ancient Art**
http://www.holycross.edu/departments/classics/jhamilton/mythology/frameimage.html
Things to do –

- Look at several of the art pieces that depict mythological beings, selected from the links along the left side of the page. Find one art piece you like and download the picture in your folder. Insert the picture into a Word document and tell what you know about the image such as:
  - Who is depicted?
  - Give a two to three sentence explanation of the diety.
  - What is the art piece made of?
  - What is its size?
  - Where is the piece being displayed?

**Mythology in Art**
http://www.loggia.com/myth/content.html
http://www.geocities.com/hestia624/paintings.html
http://humanitiesweb.org/perl/human.cgi?s=g&p=g&a=d&ID=24
http://www.temple.edu/classics/troyimages.html
http://www.artcyclopedia.com/feature-2000-05.html

Things to do –

- Name four artists who have been inspired to use mythology characters in their art. Also name the works of art.

**Mythology's Influence on the Heavens**

Myths About the Sky: Greek Gods, Goddesses, and Creatures as Constellations
http://www.windows.ucar.edu/tour/link=/mythology/stars.html
http://www.dibonsmith.com/constel.htm
http://www.emufarm.org/~cmbell/myth/myth.html
Planets - http://www.geocities.com/hestia624/planets.html
Things to do –

- List six constellations that have their roots in Greek mythology.
- Select one constellation and explain the myth behind it. Also draw a picture of the constellation.

## *Site Souvenir – Greek Mythology Today Poster*

Create a poster that highlights the evidences we have of Greek mythology today. Include examples from language, art, and science. Also consider advertising logos you may have seen that use mythology characters.

## *Tour Stop 3: Myths from Around the World*

**Myths from Around the World:**
http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/myths.htm
http://www.artsmia.org/world-myths/
http://www.indianmythology.com/
http://www.chinavista.com/experience/story/story.html
http://www.ugcs.caltech.edu/~cherryne/mythology.html
http://www.afro.com/children/myths/myths.html

**Creation Myths:**
http://www.magictails.com/creationlinks.html
http://www.crab.rutgers.edu/~goertzel/creationmyths.htm
http://www.dreamscape.com/morgana/ariel.htm
http://members.aol.com/egyptart/crea.html
http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~wldciv/world_civ_reader/world_civ_reader_1/kojiki.html
Things to do –

- Name six cultures, other than Greek, that also have myths.
- Read about these myths from the website listed above.
- Now choose any FOUR countries. List the cultures and list one or two creatures or gods who are featured in the myths.

- What lessons can be learned from these tales?
- How do the myths reflect the cultural beliefs of each originating country?
- Compare and contrast to other myths read. Similarities? Differences?

## *Site Souvenir – World Myth Postcards*

Now you know a bit about mythology in cultures other than Greece. Choose three cultures and create a series of postcards from mythological characters from each culture to the others. Design both the front, picture side, of the postcards with authentic images or decorative elements from the culture, as wells as the back, letter side. The letters should include both descriptive information about the character as wells as describe what he or she has been doing lately. "Wish you were here…"!

## *Tour Stop 4 – Myth Fun*

**Children's Myth Anthology**
http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/myths_readall.asp
Things to do –

- Read several of the myths written by children. Select two and give your opinion of the myths using the criteria of:
  - Is the main character well-described so that you can make a mental picture of it?
  - Is the action exciting and easy to follow?
  - Is the myth well-written, with no errors of spelling or grammar?

**Myth Brainstorming Machine**
http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/mythmachine.htm
Try out this cool "machine" to give you ideas for a myth. Click the Draw button first. Select from several settings, gods and monsters. The circular arrows indicate that there are more choices. After you have selected three images, click the effects button. Each time you click the button a sequential "effect" of the setting is shown in the window. Finally, click on the "Idea Outline" tab. Watch how the descriptor change as you repeatedly click the effects button. Click back on the Idea Drawing to see what the scene looks like with each set of descriptions from the Outline. When you have a scene you like, right-click the image and scroll to "Print". Then go to the Outline screen and print that also.

Things to do –

- Now write a short review of the myth. Write a six to ten sentence summary of a possible myth based on the picture. Use the vocabulary suggested in the Outline screens.
- Mount your summary and the two printed images on a piece of construction paper.

**Encyclopedia of Monsters and Mythical Creatures**
http://webhome.idirect.com/~donlong/monsters/monsters.htm
http://techcenter.davidson.k12.nc.us/spring5/goddess2/Creatures.htm
http://www.pagerealm.com/windseeker/glosentry.html
Things to do -

- Read the descriptions of several monsters or creatures. Get out a sheet of paper and draw a picture of one of them based on the description.
- Create your own monster or creature and create a Wanted Poster for the monster. Include a picture and a short description of its powers and what its "crime" is.

## *Overall Assessment Task: "How-To" Newsletter*

We have been learning about mythology on this field trip, and reading about the sometimes wild and crazy adventures of the Gods and Goddesses of Greek mythology. Now it's your turn to get in on the fun. You will be creating a newsletter aimed toward the "aspiring God or Goddess". This will be "how-to" information for the not-quite-ready-for-prime-time young deity. You may choose to use Greek mythology or myths from any other culture you have learned about.

Here are the sections that the newsletter needs to contain:

- This Month's "God Who's Hot" – a spotlight feature on a famous God or Goddess. Explain his or her powers and describe some "recent" adventure. You might even include "Who's Hot" and "Who's Not" columns.

- Monster Madness – advice section on how to deal with a pesky monster or nauseating creature. Describe a known monster and give suggestions for combating it.

- Mortal Fascination – dealing with the eccentricities of human beings. Describe a daily human event and suggest how the aspiring God or Goddess should interact with the mortals.

- Classified Section – job listings and items for sale.

- Editor's Credentials – a brief summary of your qualifications as a God/Goddess Extraordinaire. Here you will tell who you are, what powers you have, and what natural phenomenon you created. (Note: you are a new God/Goddess here, one of your own creation.)

Things to keep in mind:

1. You will need a catchy title for the newsletter
2. Your articles need to demonstrate your understanding of the customs, social systems, and values of the culture
3. The God/Goddess you become, as the editor, needs to fit in with the culture of the mythology
4. You will need to organize your articles with headlines
5. You should use strong word choice to give your articles "voice"
6. You need to include one graphic per section
7. You need to proofread and revise before your final copy

These sites might also be helpful as you prepare your newsletter:

Encyclopedia of Greek Mythology
http://www.cultures.com/greek_resources/greek_encyclopedia/greek_encyclopedia_home_to.html

Mythology-Themed Clipart –
http://www.geocities.com/hestia624/clipart.html
http://dir.coolclips.com/Fantasy/Greek_Mythology/
http://www.clipart.com/Main/tour/search_results?i=12&p=PD-0031925&q=mythology&a=c&Search=Go
http://dimkin.df.ru/clipart/clipart_show.html?cat=100000018&start=0