

# Greek Mythology

## **Introduction**

I am writing about Greek Mythology because I like how the Greeks made the gods/goddesses with human properties although they are higher beings. Greek Mythology used to be a religion and is now a body of myths that still stand strong today. Greek Mythology is important to me because a lot of the gods or goddesses have anger problems or deal with the "same" problems as me and my friends. (e.g. excluding, fighting, anger, love, jealousy etc.) I think the Greeks based the gods on humans so that it would look like we were made up of many different gods. The different cultures can make us see in different perspectives. When you are done reading this I want you to be able to share some cool info or facts about Greek Mythology with your friends. So, here is: GREEK MYTHOLOGY!

## **The Creation**

Greek Mythology was made by the Ancient Greeks and used to be a religion that was believed to make their lives better. The Mythology was invented to explain things to the people about the environment and humankind, though no one knows what part of Mythology is true and which is not. It was like an early form of storytelling. Greek Mythology was made at about the 8th century BC. The gods were made with human qualities and represented the human race.

## **Important People**

The Ancient Greeks chose people that would be the priests at the god's temples. They were believed to be able to talk to the gods. The priests were in the temples a lot and prayed to the gods. Like humans there were also important gods. They were called the Olympians. The Olympians are: Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Artemis, Apollo, Demeter, Athena, Aphrodite, Ares, Hades, Hermes, Hephaestus, Dionysus. The Olympians lived on top of a mountain in a huge temple. The mountain is called Mt. Olympus and is a real mountain in Greece.

## **Zeus and Hera**

It was believed that once there was the god of the sky called Cronus. He married Rhea who is referred to as the Mother of the gods, and had children with her. There was a prophecy that one of Cronus's children would overthrow him and take the crown. So, at

each child's birth Cronus **ate** his children. The children were immortal so they grew up in Cronus's stomach. But Rhea wanted to keep her kids so when Zeus (the 6th child) was born she hid him and gave Cronus a rock wrapped in baby clothes. When Cronus ate the rock it upset his stomach and he vomited out the 5 children. Zeus grew up and overthrew his father and married his sister - Hera goddess of marriage, childbirth, Empire and Kings. They ruled over the universe together.

## **Greece**

Poseidon and Athena had a competition to claim the title of a city in Greece. Poseidon gave them a beautiful fountain but Athena gave them the Olive and they named the city after her. Athens is now the most powerful and the biggest city in Greece. It is the capital of Greece. The temple of Athena is found in Athens and is a very beautiful one at that! It is called the Parthenon.

## **The Underworld**

Hades was the God of the underworld and his dog Cerberus guarded the entrance so that the dead souls (shades) couldn't get out. Cerberus is a dog with 3 heads and a serpent's tail. It was said to have various snakes sprouting from its body. To get to the underworld you had to cross the river Styx. There was a grumpy salesman Charon who sailed them across. Obel was the money of the dead. So, when a person died they would put one obel in their mouths so they could pay Charon. There are three parts of the underworld,

1. Tartares
2. Asphodel Fields
3. Elysian Fields

The truly evil shades were sent to the Tartares to pay for their actions. The Asphodel Fields was a shady place because that is where most shades go. The shades there eat a flower called Asphodel and are usually very grumpy. The shades that are basically perfect go to the Elysian Fields and they sing and pray and have fun forever. It is an honor to get accepted into the Elysian Fields.

## **Ares, Athena and Hephaestus**

One day Zeus had a horrid headache so he asked his son to help. His son split Zeus's head in half and out popped Athena, goddess of Wisdom, War, Math and Crafts fully grown and armored. To get back at Zeus for having Athena, Hera gave birth to

Hephaestus. But since she gave birth to him alone he was the only ugly and deformed God at Mt. Olympus. One of Zeus's sons was Ares, god of war. Ares was very bad tempered and always answered problems with war. For those reasons Zeus and Hera didn't like him even though he was their own son!

## **Greek Mythology in Literature**

One of my favorite book series is called "The Goddess Girls" by Joan Holub and Suzanne Williams. They put a tween mix into the myths to make them more lifelike and exciting. These books were the first thing that got me interested in Greek Mythology. Greek Mythology is found in literature a lot so look for it in your next Book. I recommend the Goddess Girl books to girls 8-10 mostly but feel free to try them!

## **Conclusion**

So, in conclusion, Greek Mythology are a very fascinating collection of stories that each have their own morals that can influence or even change our future decisions. Personally, my favorite goddesses is Hestia goddess of the hearth, architecture, homes, fire e.t.c. I like her because she is not very well known but is still very important. She is the first born of Cronus and Rhea so therefore is Zeus's oldest sister. I hope you enjoyed this short report on Greek Mythology. If I gave you every last detail I wouldn't be here right now. There is still so much to learn! Go out there and find it out for yourself! Be Creative! I hope you learned a few new things today!



## **Sources:**

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek\\_mythology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_mythology)
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