

# Greek Gods and Goddesses





Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023

LO: Can I create fact-files  
about the ancient Greek gods?

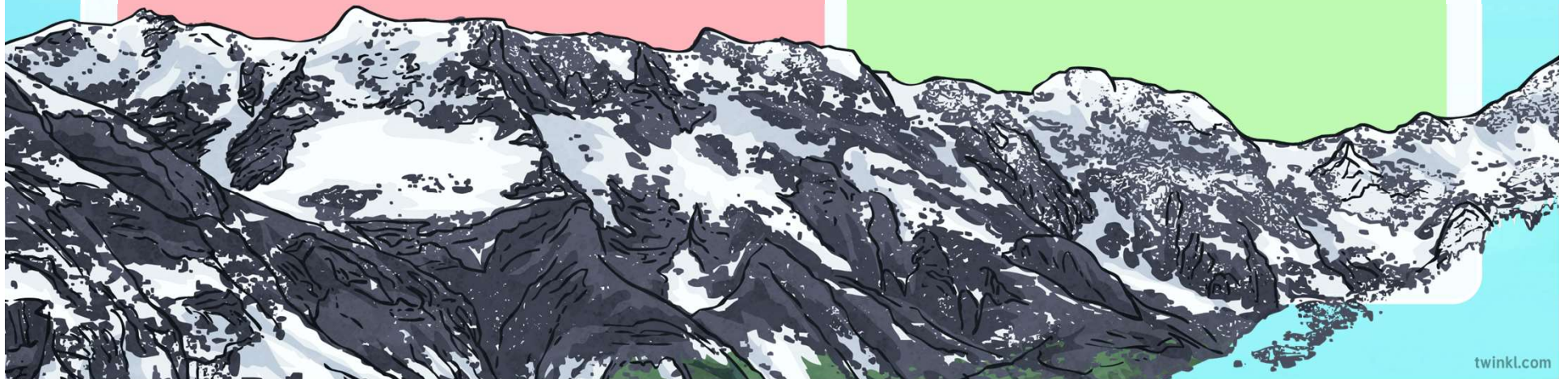
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZTrAM1\\_WIo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZTrAM1_WIo)



# Mount Olympus

The ancient Greeks believed in many different gods and goddesses. The most powerful 12 lived on the top of Mount Olympus. This is where meetings were held and arguments were settled.

There were some very powerful gods who did not actually live on Mount Olympus, such as Hades, god of the underworld.



# Zeus

Zeus was the most powerful of all the gods. He was god of the sky and the King of Mount Olympus.

He was married to the queen of the gods, Hera.

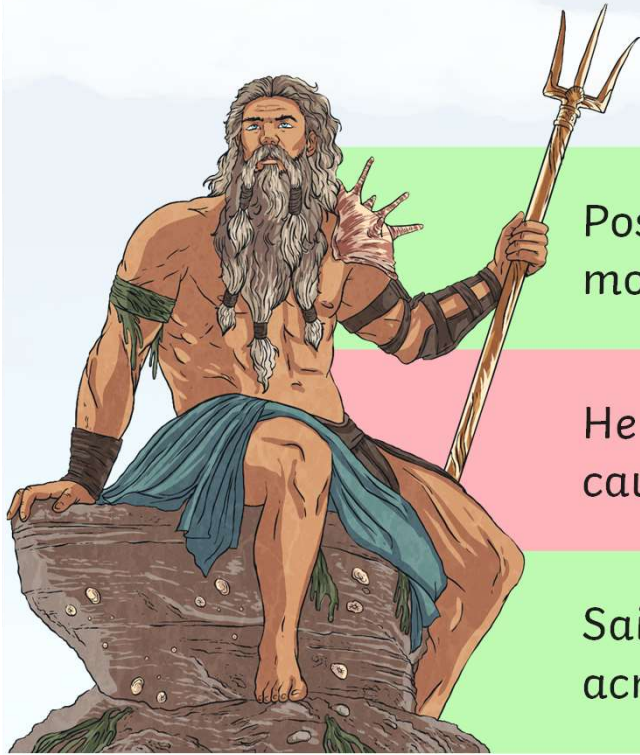
His temper affected the weather, and when he was angry he threw thunderbolts.



## Did You Know...?

Zeus defeated his father, Cronus, and the other Titans to become the King of the Gods.

# Poseidon



Poseidon was the god of the sea. He was the most powerful god except for his brother, Zeus.

He lived in a beautiful palace under the sea and caused earthquakes when he was angry.

Sailors would pray to Poseidon for safe passage across the seas before a voyage.

**Did You Know...?**

He rode a chariot pulled by seahorses.

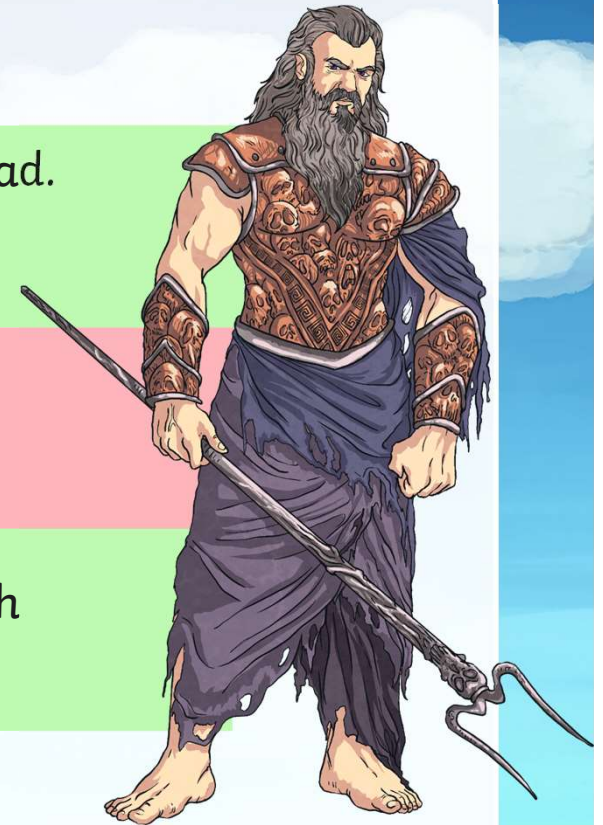


# Hades

Hades was the brother of Zeus and the god of the dead. He ruled the underworld, where people went when they died.

Hades had a helmet that could make him invisible.

Hades had a three-headed dog called Cerberus which guarded the Underworld.



## Did You Know...?

He was also the god of wealth because of the precious metals mined from the earth.

# Hestia



Hestia was Zeus' sister. She was the goddess of the hearth and the home.

Hestia was deeply honoured by ancient Greek women, who would present their newborn children to hearths to receive her blessing.

Hestia was a gentle goddess and did not get involved in any conflicts.

**Did You Know...?**

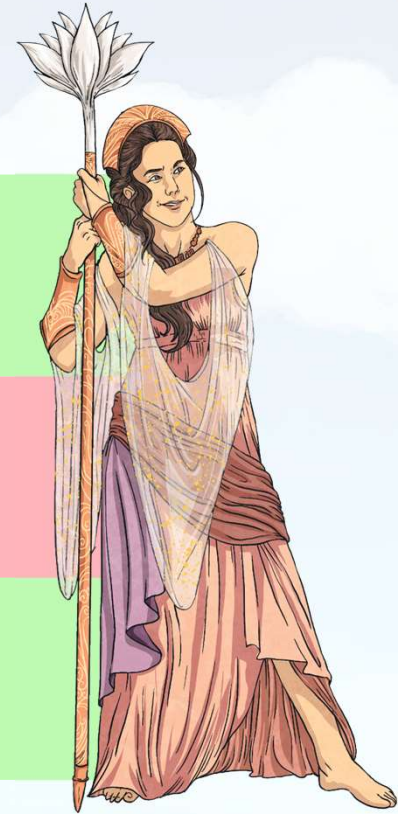
There aren't many myths about Hestia.

# Hera

Hera was the wife of Zeus. She was powerful and beautiful but very jealous and vain.

Hera was the goddess of marriage, families and birth and acted as the protector of married women.

Hera's sacred animal was the peacock and a pair of peacocks pulled her chariot.



## Did You Know...?

She was on the side of the Greeks in the Trojan War but Zeus sided with the Trojans. She deceived and distracted her husband, so that the Greeks had the upper hand during the Trojan War.



# Ares



Ares was the god of war. He was a very cruel god.

Ares was the son of Zeus and Hera and they did not like him.

Ares' sacred symbols included the dog and the vulture. He usually carried a blood-soaked spear.

## Did You Know...?

Ares had a son called Eros. He became the goddess of love.

# Athena

Athena was the daughter of Zeus. She was born directly out of his forehead. She was Zeus' favourite child.

She is the goddess of wisdom and war. Her sacred symbols included the owl and the olive tree.

Athena was a patron of the arts, especially of weavers and spinners.



## Did You Know...?

The city of Athens is named after Athena. The Parthenon is her best known and best preserved temple.

# Apollo



Apollo was the son of Zeus and the twin brother of Artemis.

He was the god of many things, including the Sun, music, poetry and arts.

Apollo often played music for the other gods on his golden lyre.

## Did You Know...?

Apollo had healing powers. He taught humans the art of medicine as was often called 'The Healer'.



# Hermes

Hermes was Zeus' youngest son. Hermes was very fast on his feet and clever so Zeus decided to make him a messenger.

Hermes wore winged sandals which enabled him to fly and move quickly.

The other gods trusted Hermes. He was very clever and loyal and was a very good negotiator.



## Did You Know...?

Many ancient Greeks believed that Hermes was responsible for the invention of the alphabet, boxing and gymnastics.

# Artemis



Artemis was the daughter of Zeus and the twin sister of Apollo.

Artemis was the goddess of the hunt, wild animals and the moon. She moved the moon in a chariot pulled by stags.

Artemis was also the protector of young children.

## Did You Know...?

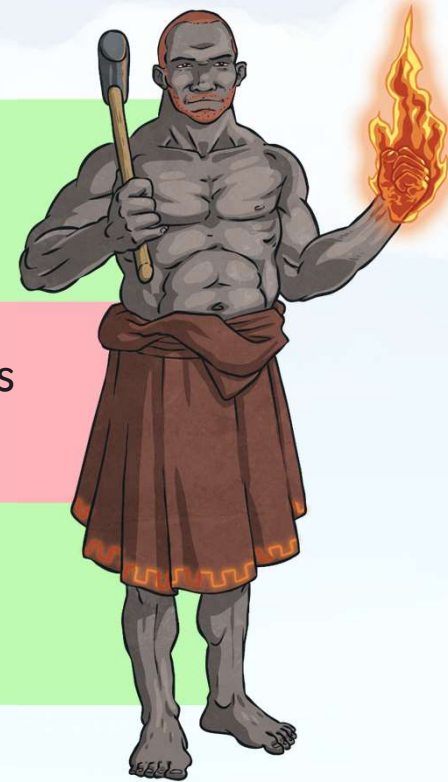
Artemis would punish anyone who hurt animals who were sacred to her, such as bears and stags.

# Hephaestus

Son of Hera and Zeus and husband of Aphrodite. Hephaestus was the god of forge and fire.

Hephaestus had a large forge under a volcano. He was the blacksmith for the gods and made them weapons.

He later returned to Mount Olympus where he continued to make magnificent objects



## Did You Know...?

Ancient Greeks believed that when a volcano erupted, Hephaestus was working on his forge.



# Ouranos



Ouranos was the god of skies. He had six sons and six daughters called the Titans. He was sometimes known as Uranus.

Ouranos was one of the old gods which ruled before the Olympian gods.

He was killed by his sons and his blood created the giants, the furies and the goddess Aphrodite.

**Did You Know...?**

The planet Uranus is named after Ouranos because the blue of the planet is blue like the sky.

# Cronus

Cronus was the god of time and the ages. He was the leader of the Titans and most supreme god after defeating his father, Ouranos.

Cronus was the son of Ouranos and the father of Zeus, Poseidon, Demeter, Hestia and Hera.

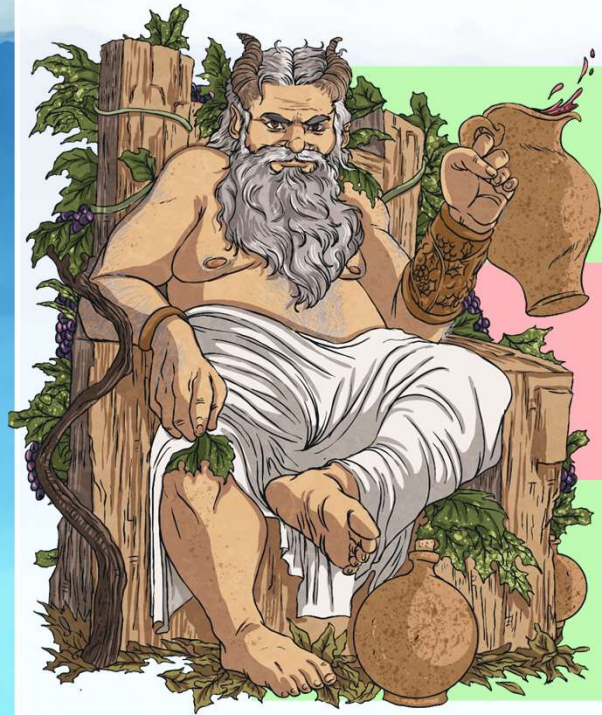
Cronus is often shown with a scythe or sickle and was patron of the harvest.



## Did You Know...?

A festival called Kronia was held in his honour to celebrate the harvest.

# Dionysus



Dionysus was the son of Zeus. He was god of wine, theatre and fertility.

Dionysus invented wine and taught humans how to grow grapevines and the art of winemaking.

Dionysus was a kind god. However, his personality also reflected the nature of wine; he could bring joy but also bring rage.

**Did You Know...?**

He is one of the very few to bring a dead person back from the underworld.



# Heracles

Heracles was the son of Zeus and a mortal woman named Alcmene, and is also known as Hercules.

He was born on Earth. He was a great hero and extremely strong.

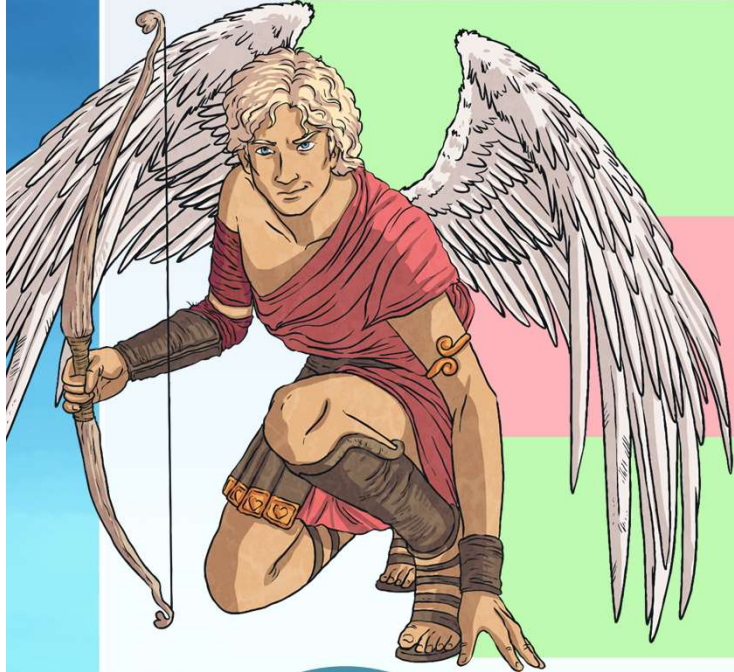
Heracles was tasked with Twelve Labours which would grant him immortality, including slaying ferocious monsters. He succeeded and became a god.



## Did You Know...?

When Heracles was a baby, Hera sent two large snakes to kill him out of jealousy. However, Heracles strangled the snakes in his crib.

# Eros



Eros was son of Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty. Eros was very romantic and full of mischief.

He made people fall in love by shooting arrows which made the victim fall in love with whoever they saw next.

He often found amusement by making unmatched people fall in love. He was the youngest god.

## Did You Know...?

Eros fell in love with Psyche (a mortal) when he grazed himself with his own magic arrow. Psyche was made immortal so that they could be together.

# Demeter



Demeter was the daughter of Cronos, the god of time and the ages. She is the goddess of the harvest, law and fertility.

She was worshipped by the people as she controlled the growth of crops. If she was angry, then she could stop crops from growing and people would go hungry.

She had many children, including Persephone, goddess of the springtime, and Arion who was a fast, immortal, flying and talking horse.

## Did You Know...?

Demeter rode in a chariot pulled by dragons and carried a long golden sword in battle.



# Your Task

Using laptops your task is to research each of the main Greek Gods. In your books you should write their names, draw a symbol to represent them and write a few sentences to describe them.

Example:

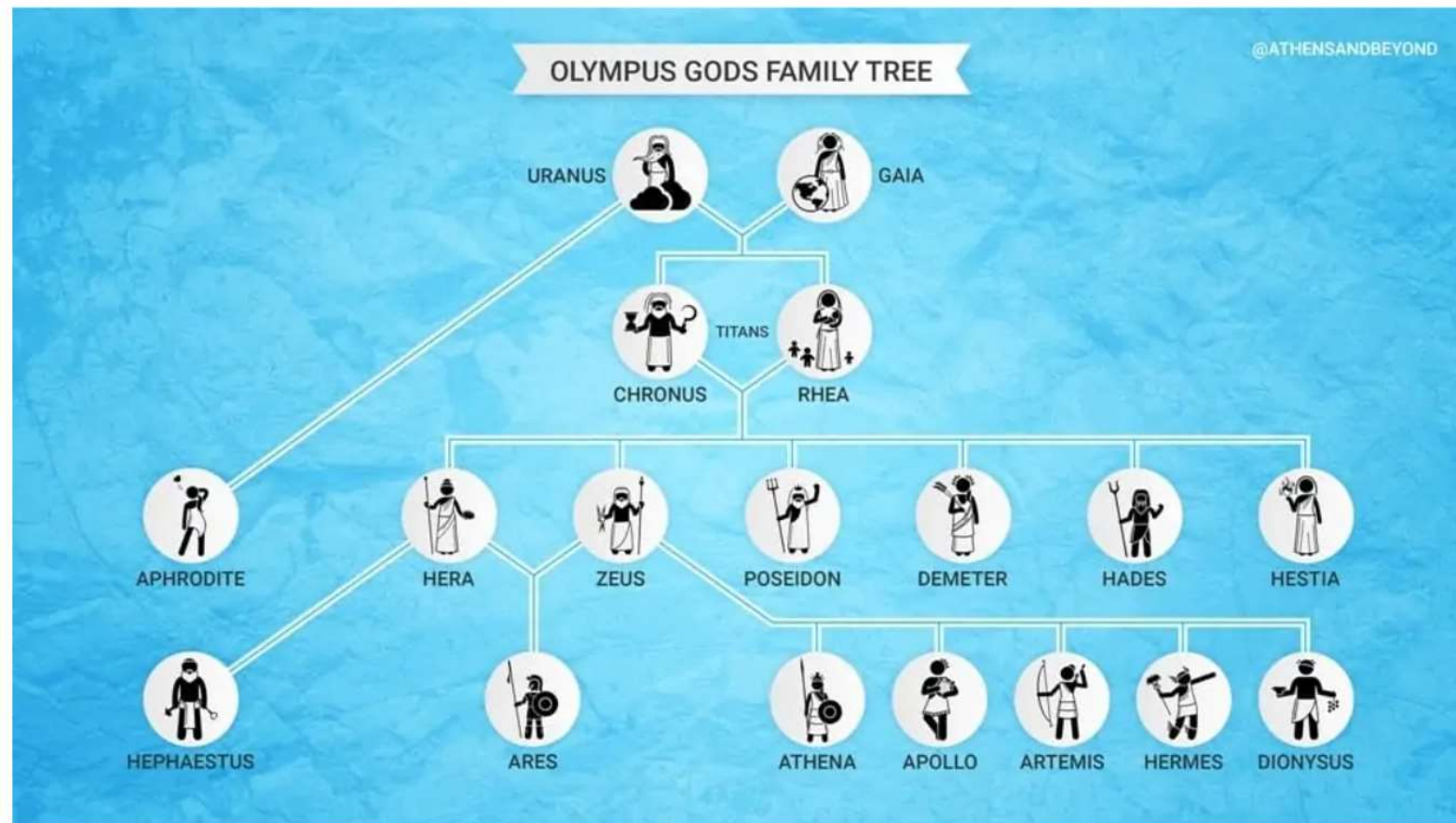


## Zeus

**Zeus was the supreme god in Ancient Greece, the father of the Olympian gods and the ruler of mankind. He was said to control The weather and strike down enemies with his lightning bolts.**



# Gods of Olympus family tree



# Child's example

