

# Greek Gods

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Greek Gods

## Zeus

Zeus was the most powerful of all the gods. He was god of the sky and the king of Olympus. His temper affected the weather, and he threw thunderbolts when he was unhappy. He was married to Hera. Zeus had the power to transform his shape. He was ruler of all other gods and was seen as powerful, strong and unpredictable.

### Did You Know?

Zeus' father was worried his children would betray him, so he ate his children.



Greek 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.

### Did You Know...?

Sailors would pray to Poseidon before a voyage for calm seas and safe passage.



Greek Gods

## Ares

Ares was the god of war. He was cruel and a coward. His symbols include the vulture and the dog and he often carried a bloody spear.

### Did You Know?

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



Greek Gods

## Aphrodite

Aphrodite was the goddess of love and beauty, and the protector of sailors. She may have been the daughter of Zeus or she may have risen from the sea on a shell.

### Did You Know...?

Aphrodite had a chariot pulled by swans to glide through the air.



Greek Gods

## Hermes

Hermes was the messenger god, a trickster. He was the speediest of all and he wore winged shoes.

### Did You Know?

Hermes invented boxing and gymnastics.



Greek Gods

## Hades

Hades was the god of the Underworld. Zeus and Poseidon were his brothers. He wore a helmet that could make him invisible.

### Did You Know?

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



Greek Gods

## Athena

Athena was the goddess of wisdom. Her symbol was an owl.

### Did You Know?

Athena didn't have a mum. Instead, she was born fully grown out of Zeus' head wearing armour.



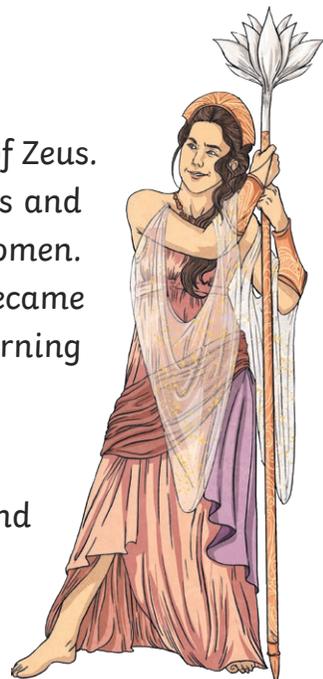
Greek Gods

## Hera

Hera was queen of the gods and the wife of Zeus. She was the goddess of marriage, families and birth, acting as the protector of married women. She was known to be vengeful and often became jealous of other goddesses, regularly turning her anger on mortals.

### Did You Know?

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



Greek Gods

## Demeter

Demeter was goddess of agriculture and the harvest. She controlled the seasons and how well crops grew. Demeter taught mortal men how to grow corn and farmers would pray to her to ask for a bountiful harvest.

### Did You Know?

It was believed that the barrenness of winter was caused by Demeter's sadness over her daughter Persephone having to live in the underworld with Hades during these months.



Greek Gods

## Apollo

Apollo was the god of many things, including the sun, music, poetry and art. He was the son of Zeus and had a twin sister, Artemis. Apollo played music for the other gods on his golden lyre. Apollo taught humans the art of medicine and is sometimes referred to as 'The Healer'.

### Did You Know?

Apollo had the ability to heal people of disease but just as often spread infection and disease to those who angered him using arrows.



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## Artemis

Artemis was goddess of the hunt, wild animals and young girls. She was the twin sister of Apollo and the daughter of Zeus. She would hunt using her bow and arrows and have a hunting dog as companion. She is also sometimes associated with the Moon.

### Did You Know?

Artemis would punish anyone who hurt any animals sacred to her, including bears and stags.



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## Hephaestus

Hephaestus was the god of fire, metal working and sculpture. He was the son of Zeus and Hera and married to Aphrodite. He was a blacksmith and made all the weapons for the gods on Olympus.

### Did You Know?

Hephaestus had a forge under a volcano. When it erupted, it was believed Hephaestus was working.



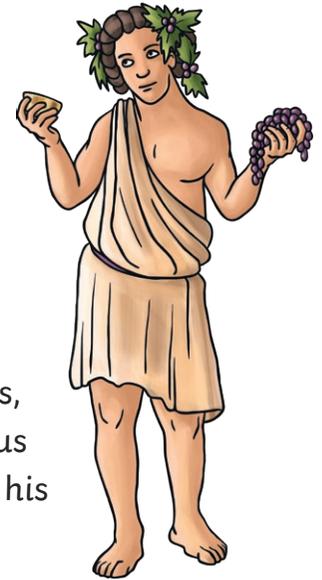
Greek Gods

## Dionysus

Dionysus was the god of wine and theatre and was the son of Zeus. He taught humans how to grow vines and make wine and was said to be happy only during the harvest time.

### Did You Know...?

Unlike many of the other Olympian gods, Dionysus was a kind god and very generous to humans, only very rarely showing his ability to be cruel.



Greek Gods

## Hestia

Hestia was goddess of the hearth and home. She is the sister of Zeus, Poseidon, Hades, Hera and Demeter. She was a very gentle goddess and did not get involved in any conflicts. Newborn children were presented to hearths to honour Hestia and to receive her blessing.

### Did You Know?

Every city had a public fire that represented Hestia that was never allowed to go out.

