

Ancient Greece

Greek Literature and Mythology



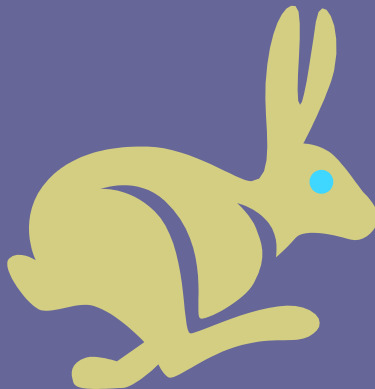
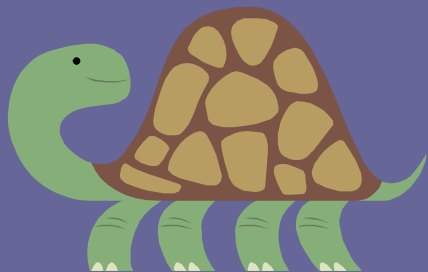
Ancient Greek Literature

- Early Greek writers created some of the world's most famous stories and poems
- Homer (a blind poet) wrote *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*
 - Both are epic poems
 - *The Iliad* discusses Achilles and his role in the Trojan War
 - *The Odyssey* talks about Odysseus and his adventurous journey home
- These poems were used in Greek schools as lessons
- Homer's works are considered some of the greatest literary works ever

Ancient Greek Literature

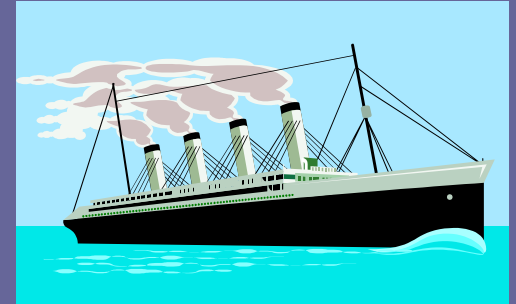


- Another famous poet was Sappho
 - She wrote her poems to go with music – lyre
 - Called lyric poems
- Greeks wrote stories to teach lessons too
 - Fable – Short stories that teach the reader lessons about life
 - Aesop is the most famous fable writer from Ancient Greece



Greek Literature Today

- Words from Ancient Greece:
 - Odyssey – Journey
 - Titanic – Large and powerful
 - Athens – Athena, goddess of wisdom
 - Atlas – A giant who held up the sky
 - Aegean Sea – Greek king Aegeus
 - Europe – Europa (Greek heroine)
 - Io (Jupiter's moon) – A Goddess' daughter



Greek Influence on Language

- Achilles was a great warrior who was killed when an arrow struck his heel
- Hercules was the strongest man on earth who completed 12 almost impossible tasks
- King Midas was granted one wish by the god Dionysus, so he wished everything he touched turned to gold
- An “Achilles Heel” is a person’s weak spot
- When a person has a really hard job to do, it is called a “Herculean” task
- A person who seems to get rich easily is said to have a “Midas touch”

Greek Gods

- Gods were at the center of Greek life
- Mythology played an important role in Greek society
 - Mythology – A collection of stories about gods and heroes that try to explain how the world works
- Today, we use scientific explanations for things
 - Not the case with the Greeks, who used the gods to explain everything
 - The Greeks created myths to explain why the gods did what they did

The Greek Gods

BUILDING BACKGROUND The Greeks lived in a time long before the development of science. To them, natural events like thunderstorms and changing seasons were mysterious. Today we can explain what causes these events. But to the Greeks, they seemed like the work of powerful gods.

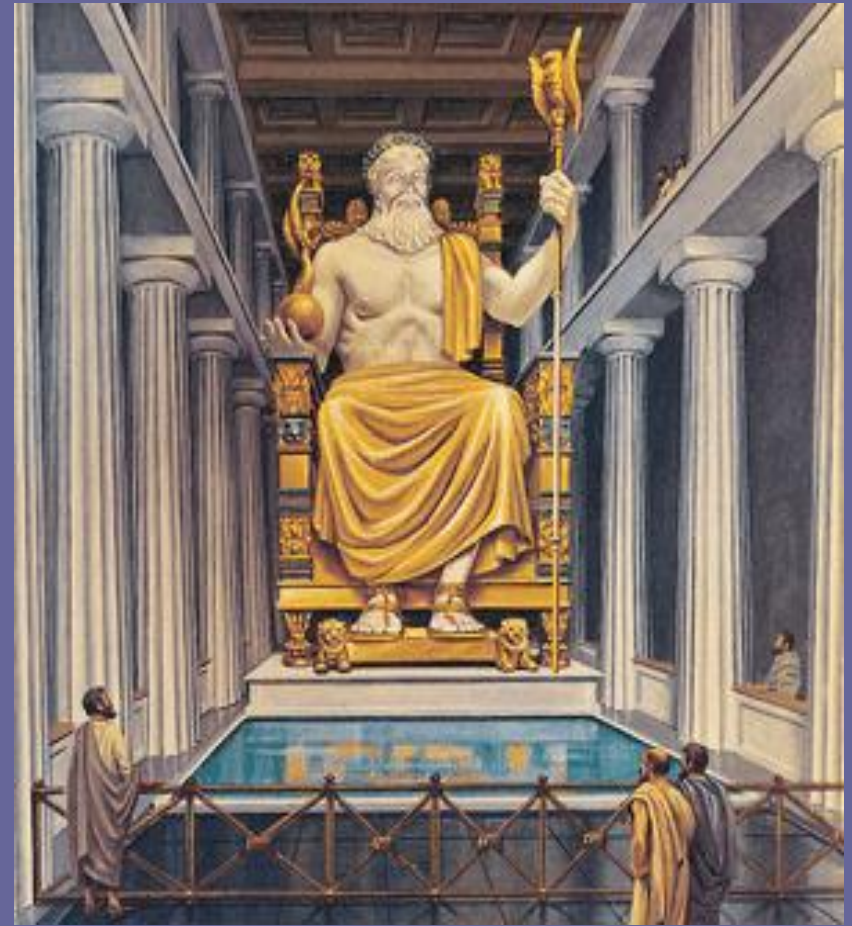
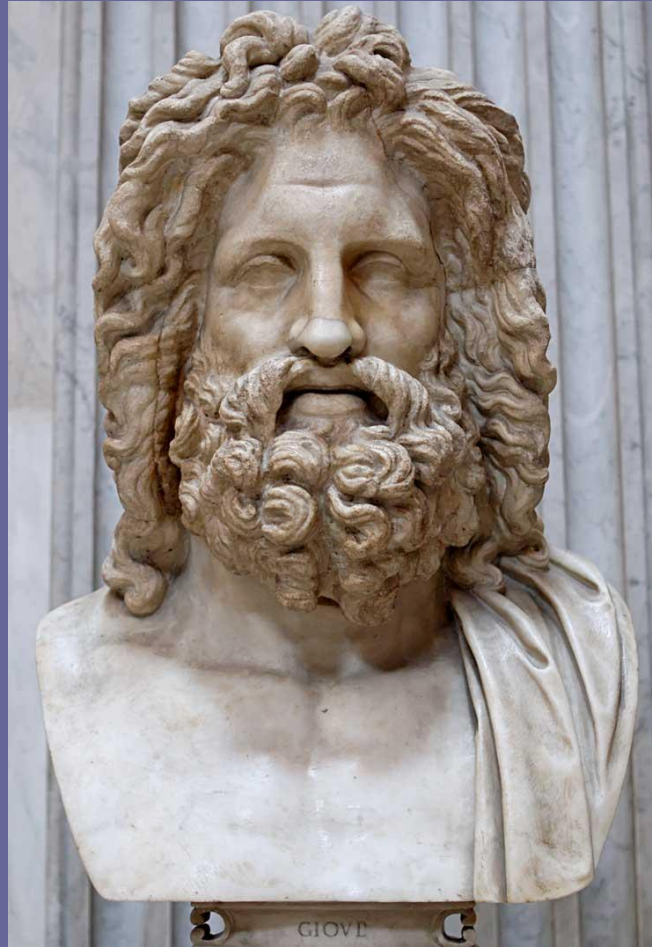
Olympian Gods



ANALYSIS SKILL ANALYZING VISUALS

What can you see that indicates the Olympian gods have superhuman powers?

Zeus – The Ruler of the Gods



Poseidon – Lord of the Sea



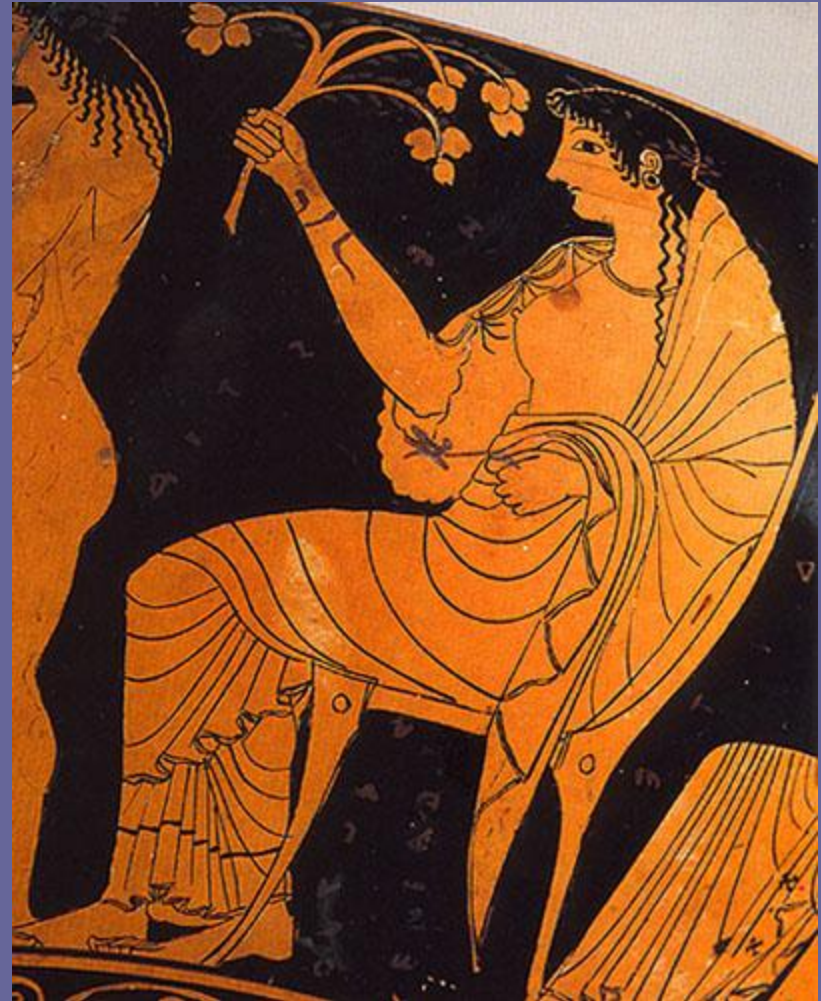
Hades – Lord of the Underworld



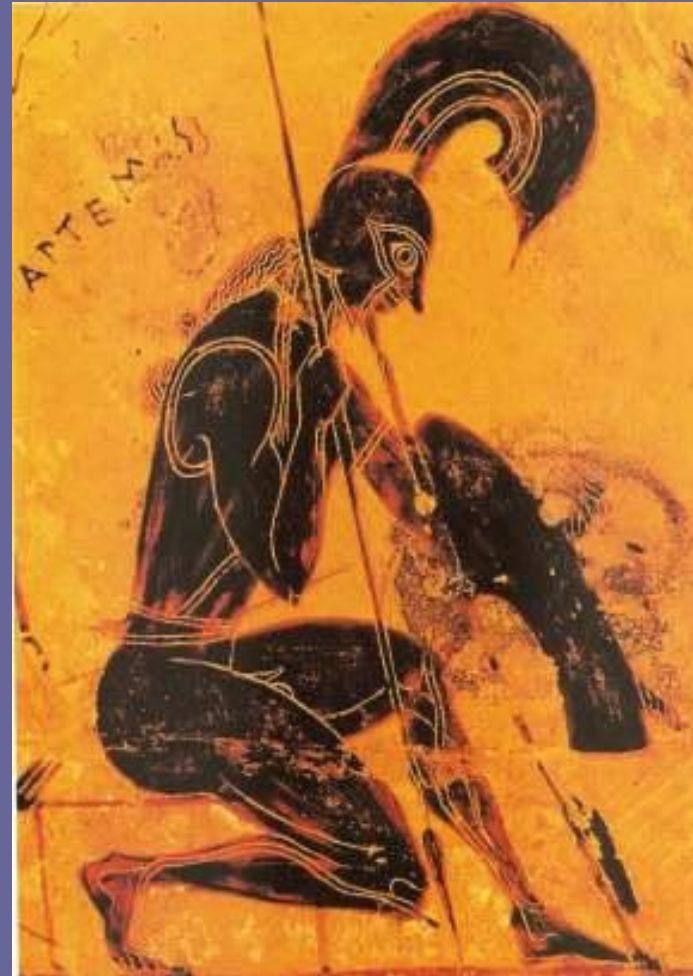
Hera – Queen of the Gods



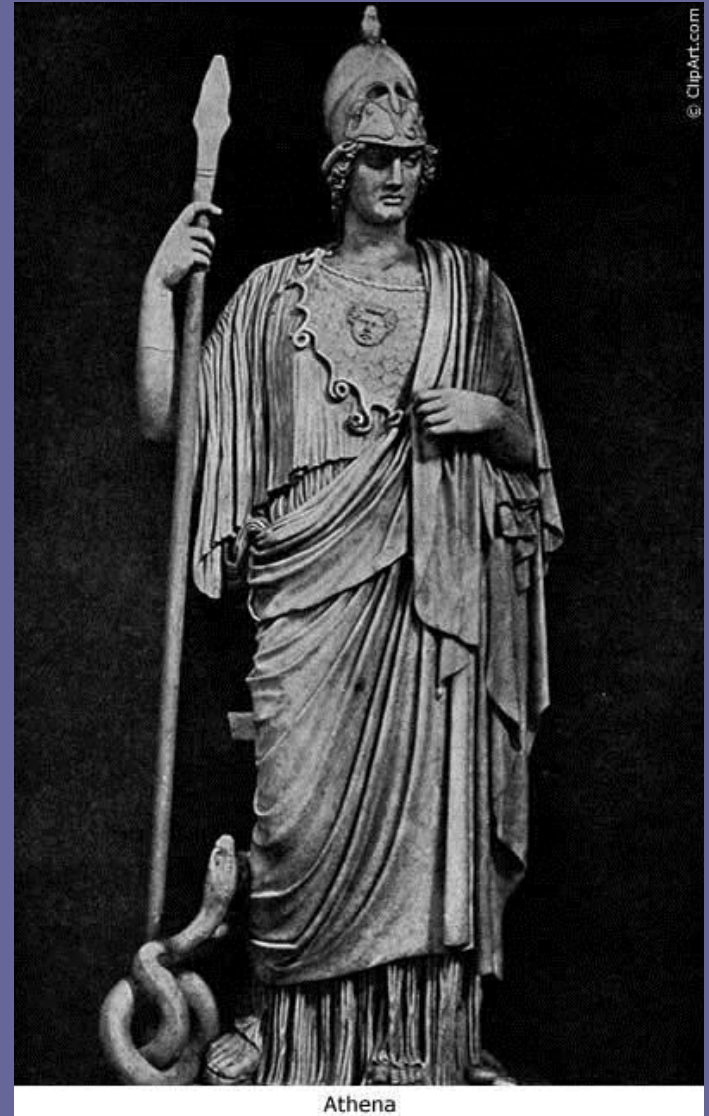
Hestia – Goddess of the Hearth



Ares – God of War



Athena – Goddess of Wisdom



Athena

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Apollo – God of the Sun



Aphrodite – Goddess of Love



Hermes – The Messenger God



Artemis – Goddess of the Hunt



Hephaestus – God of Metalworking

