Roman Mythology

The Principal Gods and Goddesses
The First Parents

- Mother Earth = Gaia (Gaea)
- Father Heaven = Uranus (Ouranos)
- They had three kinds of children:
  - Three monsters with 100 hands and 50 heads
  - Three cyclopes
  - The titans
The Titans (The Elder Gods)

- There were many of them.

- Enormous size, incredible strength

- Saturn (Cronos): Ruler of the titans

- Ops (Rhea): Wife of Saturn
The Principal Gods

- Saturn and Ops were parents of
  - Jupiter, Jove (Zeus)
  - Neptune (Poseidon)
  - Pluto (Hades)
  - Juno (Hera)
  - Vesta (Hestia)
  - Ceres (Demeter)

- Other Olympians include
  - Minerva (Athena)
  - Mars (Ares)
  - Vulcan (Hephaestus)
  - Apollo (Apollo)
  - Diana (Artemis)
  - Mercury (Hermes)
  - Venus (Aphrodite)
  - Bacchus (Dionysus)
  - Proserpina (Persephone)
Greek vs. Roman Mythology

- Compared to Roman, the Greek gods were represented with gorgeous bodies, where muscles, eyes, faces and hair would give them the most beautiful appearance.
Jupiter (also Jove)

- Greek Name: Zeus
- Supreme god
- Fathered many characters in mythology
Juno

- Greek Name: Hera
- Jupiter’s sister and wife
- Jealous protector of marriage
Neptune

- Greek Name: Poseidon
- God of the Seas and Waters
- “The Earth-shaker”
Minerva

- Greek Name: Athena
- Goddess of Wisdom and War
- Sprang from Jupiter’s head
Apollo

- Greek Name: Apollo
- God of Light/Sun and Music
- Brother of Diana
Diana

- Greek Name: Artemis
- Goddess of the Moon/Hunt
- Sister to Apollo
Venus

- Greek Name: Aphrodite
- Goddess of Love and Beauty
- Sprang from the ocean foam
Mercury

- Greek Name: Hermes
- Messenger of the Gods
- Appears in more myths than any other character
Mars

- Greek Name: Ares
- God of War
- Son of Jupiter and Juno
- Mars is also God of fertility and agriculture
Vesta

- Greek Name: Hestia
- Goddess of Home
- Powerful Protector
Vulcan

- Greek Name: Hephaestus
- God of Fire/Forge
- Son of Jupiter and Juno
- Kind, unlike his brother (Mars)
Pluto

- Greek Name: Hades
- God of the Underworld/Dead
- Kidnapped Proserpina
Ceres

- Greek Name: Demeter
- Goddess of the Harvest
- A Goddess of the Earth
Bacchus

- Greek Name: Dionysus
- God of Wine
- Patron god of the stage
- A God of the Earth
Proserpina

- Greek Name: Persephone
- Goddess of the Underworld
- Abducted by Pluto
Cupid

- Greek Name: Eros
- Young God of Love
- Son of Venus and Vulcan
Sources

- Graphics in this portion were taken from the following web sites:
  - http://www.bulfinch.org/fables/search.html
  - http://www.pantheon.org/
  - http://www.messagenet.com/myths/
  - http://mythman.com/
  - http://www.paleothea.com/
  - http://trcs.wikispaces.com
Planets

All slides in this portion taken from the following website:
http://coolcosmos.ipac.caltech.edu/cosmic_kids/AskKids/index.shtml
Mercury

- fastest planet
- solar year = 88 days
- 107,088 miles per hour
Venus

- brightest and most beautiful star/planet
- hottest planet – 860 degrees
Earth

- English/German name “ground”
- only planet not named after Roman/Greek mythology
Mars

- red, bloodlike color
- Mars rode a chariot pulled by two horses
  - Two small moons – Phobos & Deimos
Jupiter

- largest planet
- 1300x’s bigger than Earth
- has at least 63 moons – named after mythological characters who had a relation with Jupiter/Zeus
In ancient times, astronomers could only see the first 6 planets from the sun.

- made outermost planet sacred to Saturnus
- god of agriculture and harvest
- 31 moons – named for other Titans (brothers/sisters)
Uranus

- Greek god of the sky (father of Cronos [Saturn])
- discovered in 1781 (unknown to ancient world)
Neptune

- planet appears blue (god of the sea)
Pluto (dwarf planet)

- coldest and farthest from sun
- Pluto could make himself invisible