

Greek and Roman Mythology

A Review
of
The Principal Gods and Goddesses

What is a myth?

- n A traditional story rooted in primitive folk beliefs of cultures
- n Uses the supernatural to interpret natural events
- n Explains the culture's view of the universe and the nature of humanity

In the beginning...

- n ...was Chaos (shapeless nothingness)
- n Chaos had two children:
 - Night (darkness)
 - Erebus (death)
- n “All was black, empty, silent, endless.”
- n Mysteriously, Love was born of darkness and death.

And then...

- n When Love was born, order and beauty began to flourish.
- n Love created Light and Day.
- n Earth was created.
 - She was the solid ground, but also a personality.
- n The Earth bore Heaven to cover her and be a home for the gods.

The First Parents

- n Mother Earth = Gaea (Gaia)
- n Father Heaven = Ouranos (Uranus)
- n They had three kinds of children:
 - Three monsters with 100 hands and 50 heads
 - Three cyclopes
 - The titans
- n These were the first characters that had the appearance of life, although it was unlike any life known to man.

The Titans (The Elder Gods)

- n There were many of them.
- n Enormous size, incredible strength
- n Cronos (Saturn): Ruler of the titans
- n Rhea: Wife of Cronos
- n Ocean: River that encircled the world
- n Iapetus: Father of Prometheus, Epimetheus, and Atlas (also titans)

The Principal Gods

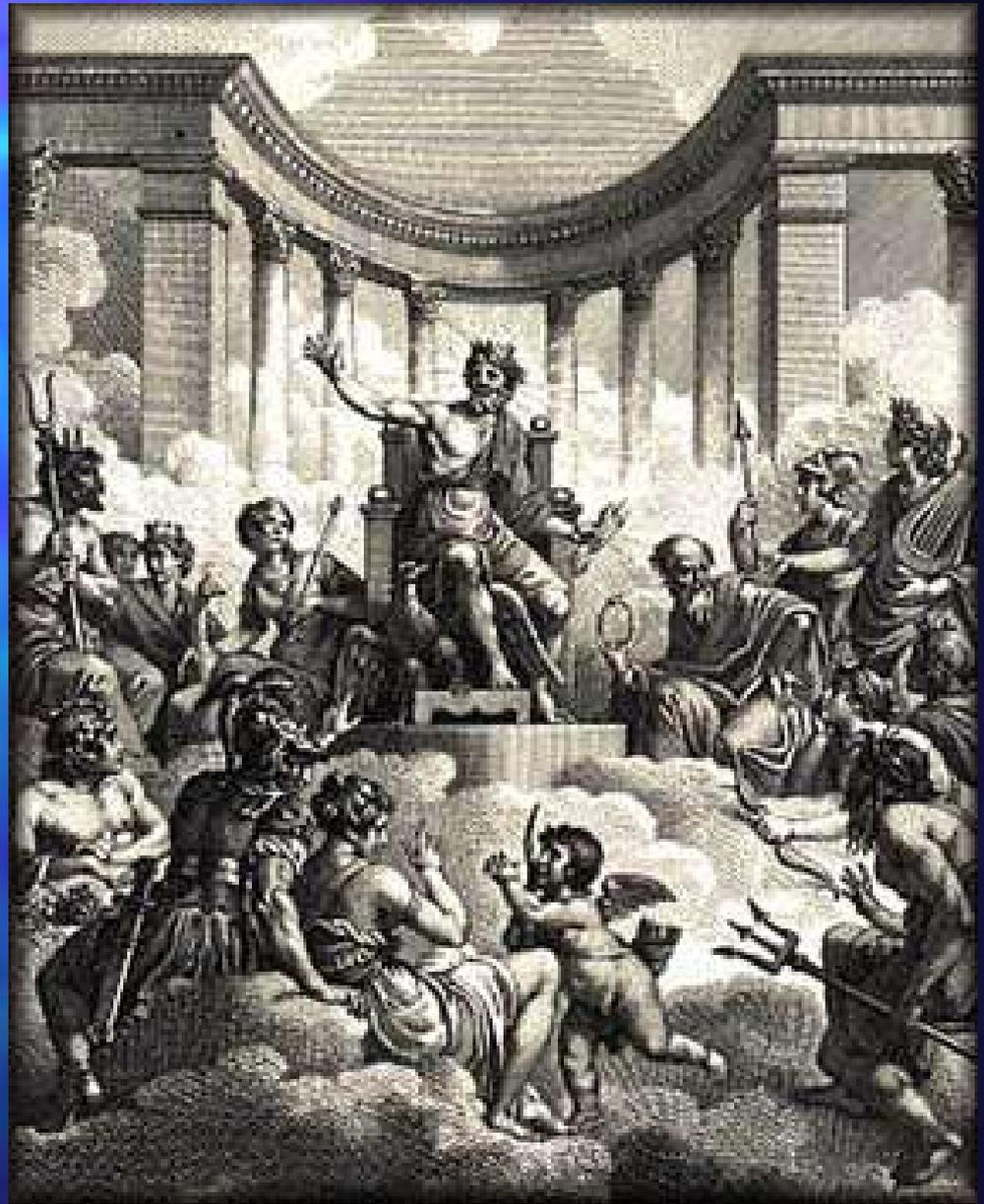
n Cronos and Rhea
were parents of

- Zeus (Jupiter, Jove)
- Poseidon (Neptune)
- Hades (Pluto)
- Hera (Juno)
- Hestia (Vesta)
- Demeter (Ceres)

n Other Olympians include

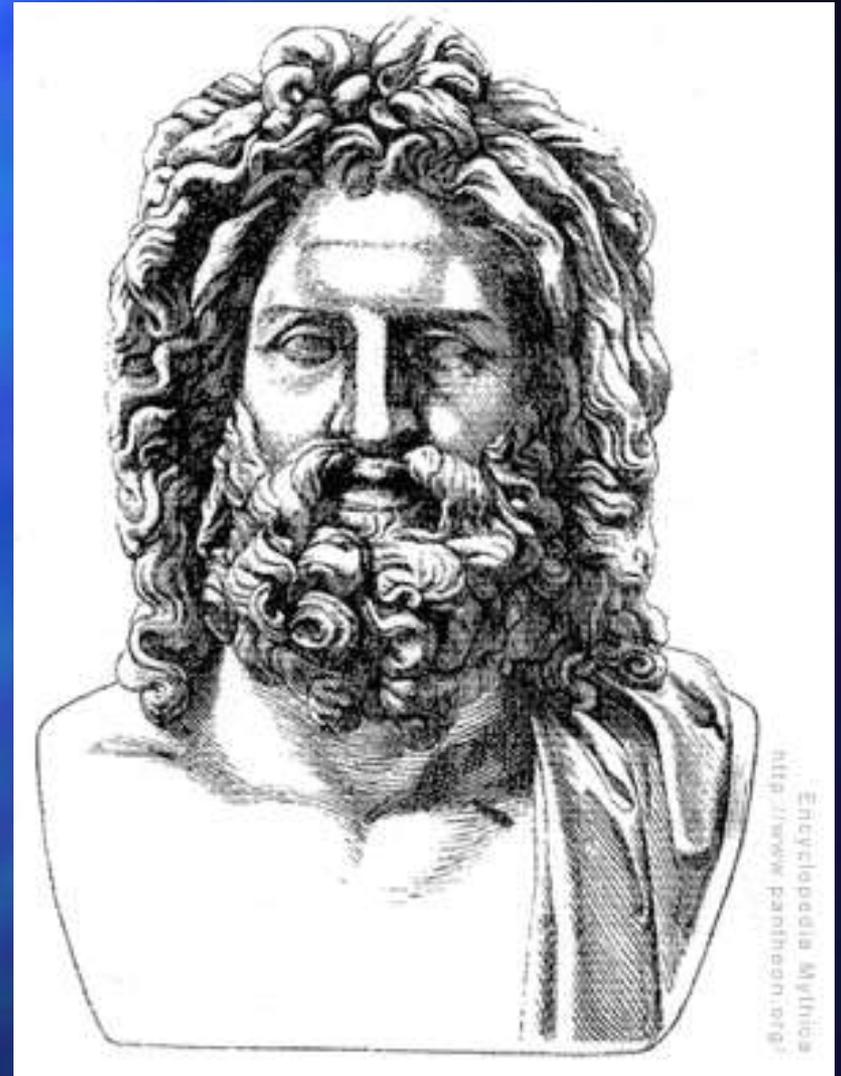
- Athena (Minerva)
- Ares (Mars)
- Hebe (Juventas)
- Hephaestus (Vulcan)
- Apollo (Apollo)
- Artemis (Diana)
- Hermes (Mercury)
- Aphrodite (Venus)
- Dionysus (Bacchus)
- Persephone

The Olympians

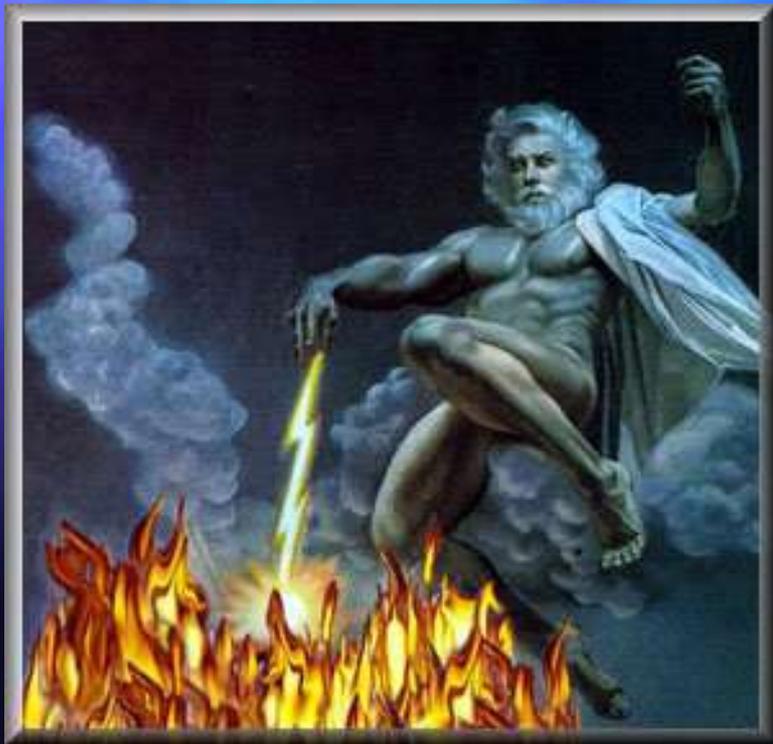


Zeus

- n Roman Name: Jupiter (also Jove)
- n Supreme god of the Olympians.
- n Fathered many characters in mythology



Zeus



Hera

- n Roman Name: Juno
- n Zeus's sister and wife
- n Jealous protector of marriage
- n Punished the women Zeus fell in love with



Poseidon

- n Roman Name:
Neptune
- n God of the Seas
and Waters
- n “The
Earthshaker”



Hades

- n Roman Name: Pluto
- n God of the Underworld/Dead
- n Kidnapped Persephone



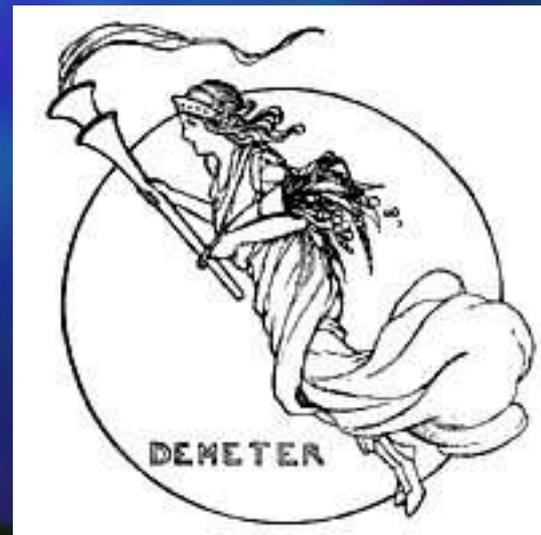
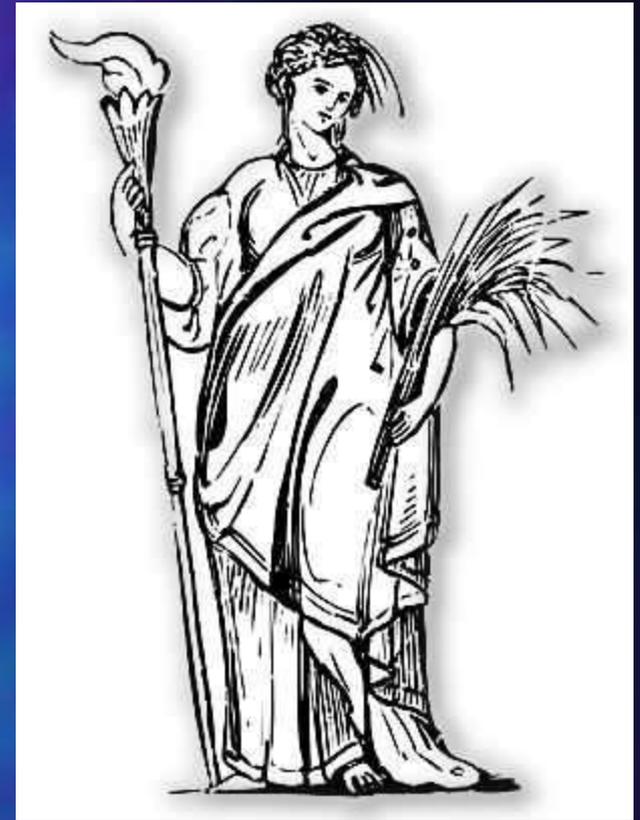
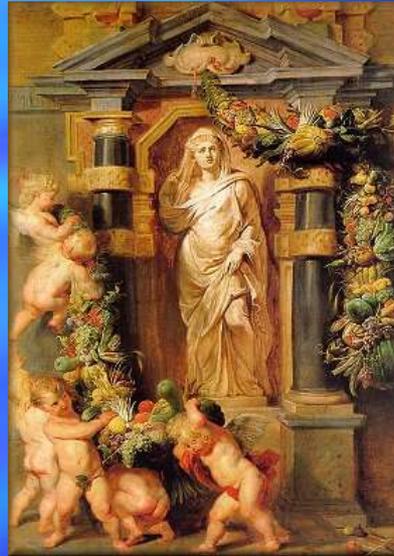
Hestia

- n Roman Name: Vesta
- n Goddess of Home
- n Powerful Protector



Demeter

- n Roman Name: Ceres
- n Goddess of the Harvest
- n A Goddess of the Earth



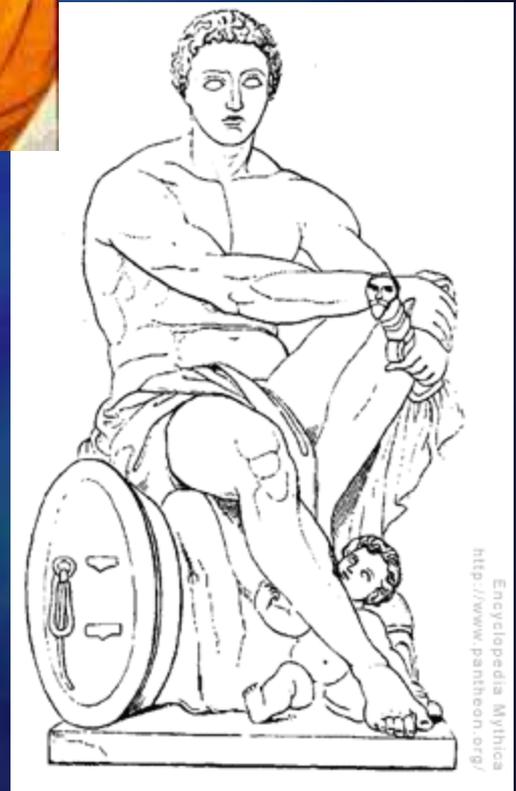
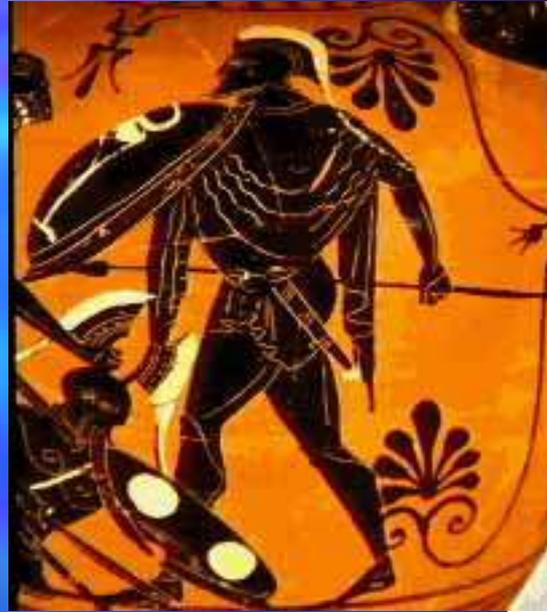


Athena

- n Roman Name: Minerva
- n Goddess of Wisdom and War
- n Sprang from Zeus's head

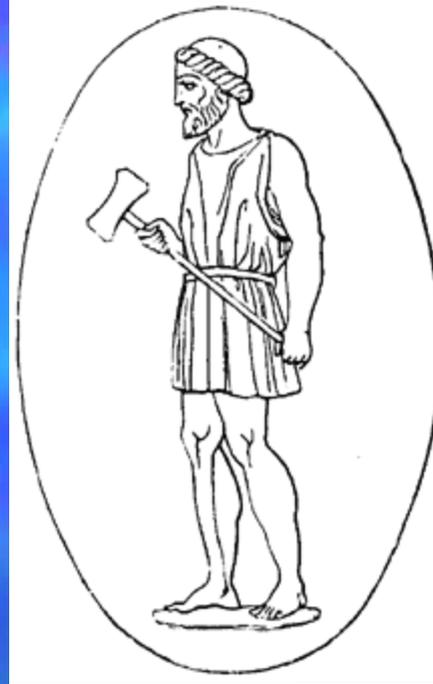
Ares

- n Roman Name: Mars
- n God of War
- n Son of Zeus and Hera
- n Bloodthirsty and merciless



Hephaestus

- n Roman Name:
Vulcan
(Mulciber)
- n God of
Fire/Forge
- n Son of Zeus
and Hera
- n Kind, unlike
his brother



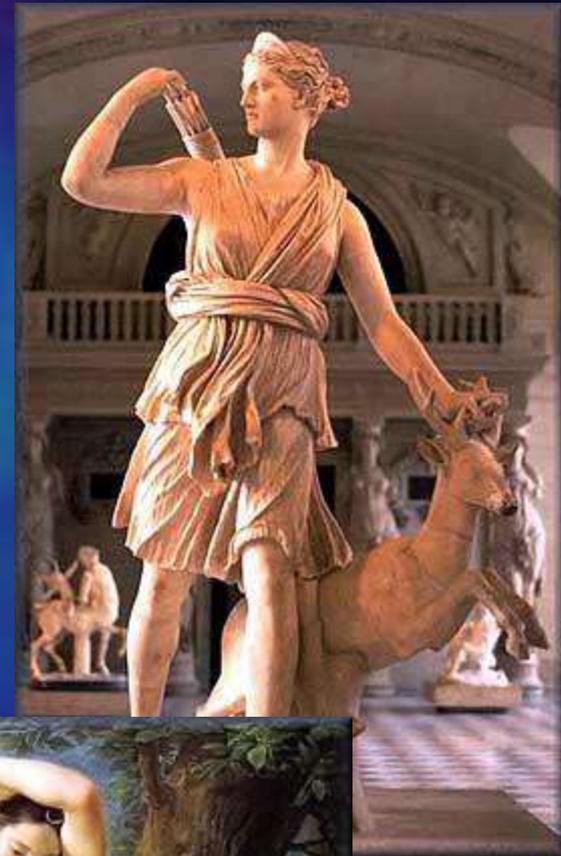
Apollo

- n Roman Name: Apollo
- n God of Light/Sun and Music
- n Brother of Artemis



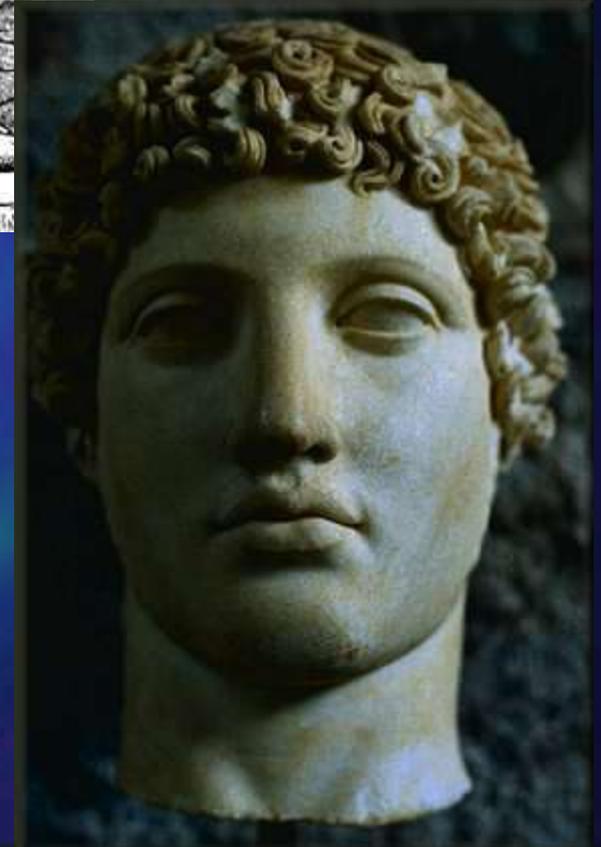
Artemis

- n Roman Name: Diana
- n Goddess of the Moon/ Hunt
- n Sister to Apollo



Hermes

- n Roman Name: Mercury
- n Messenger of the Gods
- n Appears in more myths than any other character



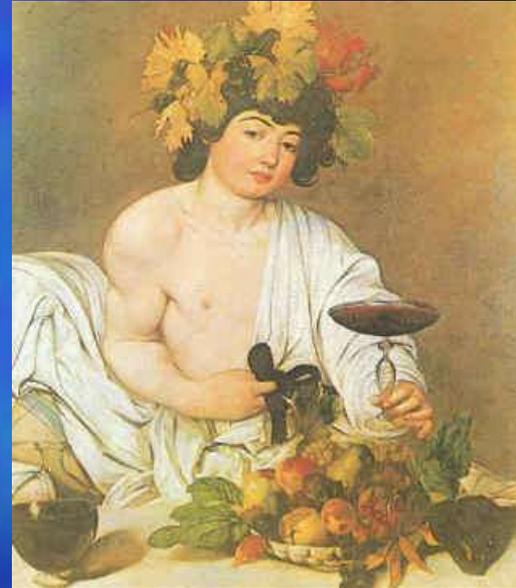
Aphrodite

- n Roman Name: Venus
- n Goddess of Love and Beauty
- n Sprang from the ocean foam



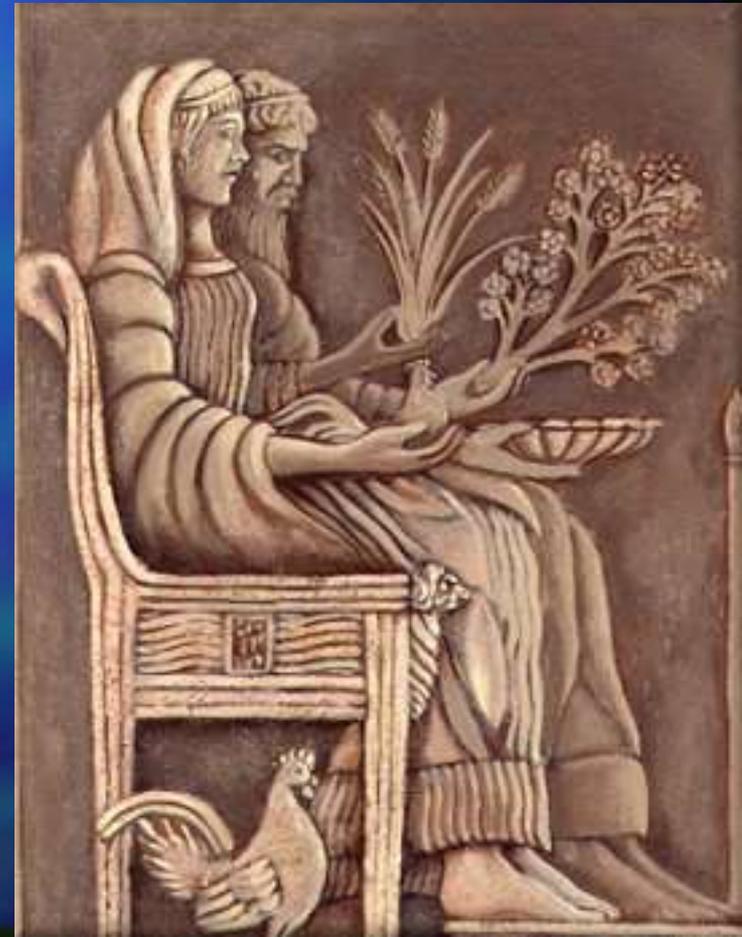
Dionysus

- n Roman Name: Bacchus
- n God of Wine
- n Patron god of the Greek stage
- n A God of the Earth



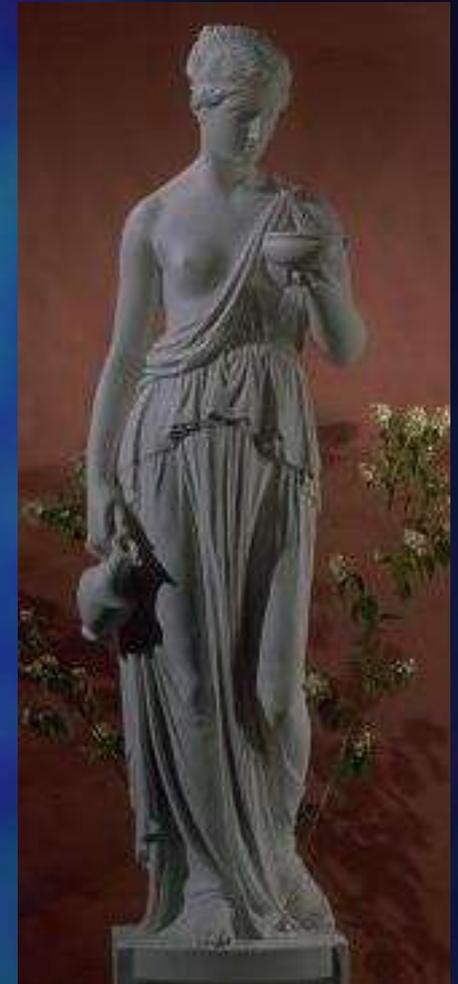
Persephone

- n Roman Name: Proserpina
- n Goddess of the Underworld
- n Daughter of Zeus and Demeter
- n Abducted by Hades



Hebe

- n Roman Name: Juventas
- n Goddess of Youth
- n Cupbearer to the Gods
- n Restored youth to the aged



Eros

- n Roman Name: Cupid
- n Young God of Love
- n Son of Aphrodite and Hephaestus



Iris

- n Goddess of the Rainbow
- n Messenger for Zeus and Hera
- n Daughter of the titan Thaumus and the nymph Electra



The Muses

- n Nine daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne
- n Inspired artists of all kinds
- n Goddesses who presided over the arts and sciences
- n “He is happy whom the muses love.”



Clio, Urania, Thalia, Melpomene, Erato, Calliope, Euterpe, Terpsichore, Polyhymnia

The Graces

- n Three Goddesses of Grace and Beauty
- n “They give life its bloom.”
- n Aglaia (Splendor)
- n Euphrosyne (Mirth)
- n Thalia (Good Cheer)



The Erinnyes (The Furies)

- n Roman Name: Furiae or Dirae (The Furies)
- n Three Goddesses of Vengeance
 - Tisiphone
 - Alecto
 - Megaera
- n They punish evildoers.



The Fates



n Roman Name: Parcae, Moirae

n Three sisters

- Clotho (“The Spinner”)

- Lachesis (“The disposer of lots”)

- Atropos (“The cutter”)

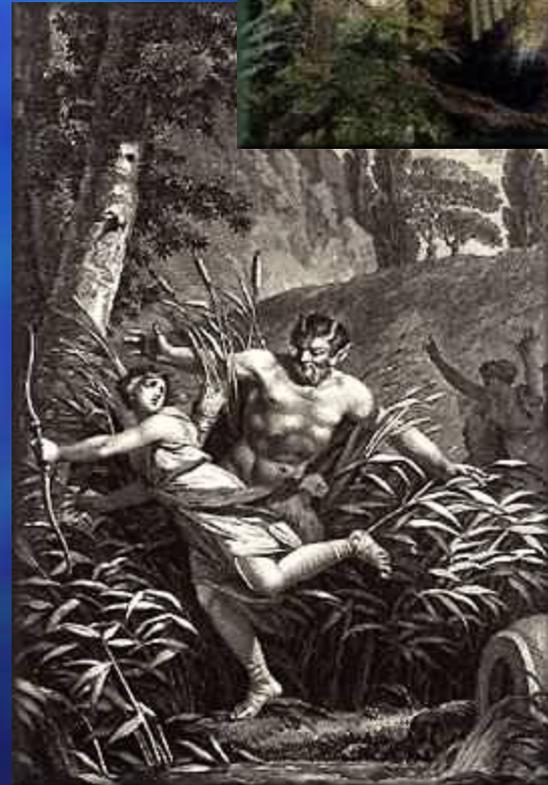
n They weave, measure, and cut the thread of life for humans.





The Satyrs

- n Gods of the woods and mountains
- n "Shepherd gods"
- n Goat men (like Pan)
- n Companions of Dionysus
- n They like to drink, dance, and chase nymphs.



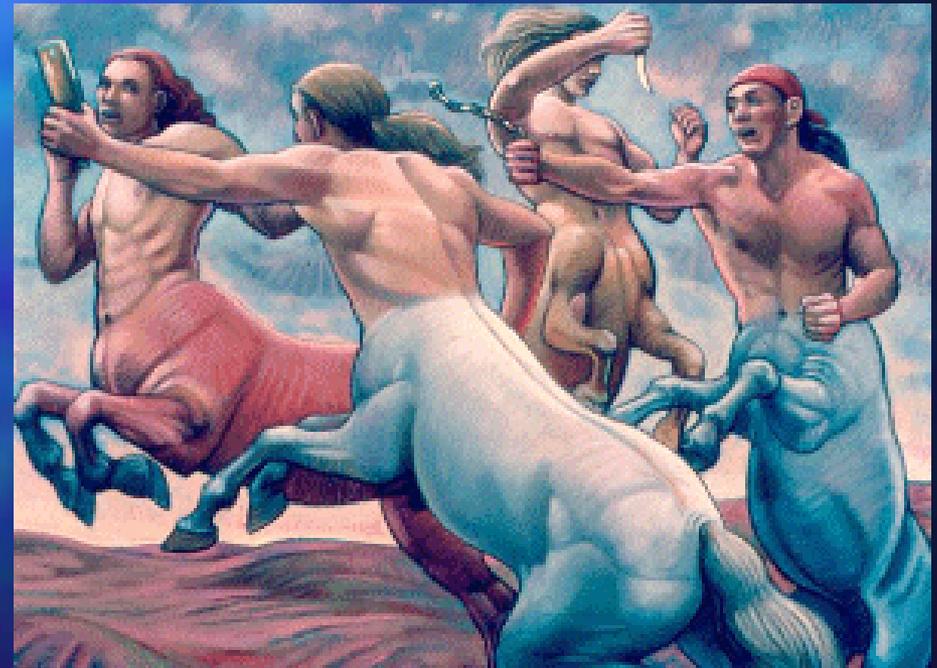
The Gorgons

- n Three snake-haired monsters
- n Medusa is most well-known
- n Their look turns men to stone.



The Centaurs

- n Half man, half horse
- n Savage creatures (except Chiron)
- n Followers of Dionysus



Sources

n Graphics in this presentation 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://web.uvic.ca/grs/bowman/myth/index.html>
- <http://www.paleothea.com/>
- <http://www.entrenet.com/%7Egroedmed/greekm/myth.html>

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