

Andromeda (an draw' muh dah) princess saved by Perseus when sacrificed to a sea monster.

Aphrodite (af ruh dy' tee), goddess of love and beauty. Roman name: Venus

Apollo (uh pawl' oh), god of the sun, poetry, and music. Helios drove his sun chariot.

Arachne (uh rak' nee), loses a weaving contest to Athene and is changed into a spider.

Ares (air' eez) god of war whom all the other gods hate because he is so blood thirsty.
Roman Name: Mars

Athene or Athena (uh thee' nuh) goddess of wisdom and war. Taught math to man. Roman name: Minerva.

Bellerephon (buh lair' uh fawn) hero who kills the Chimaera and unsuccessfully tries flying Pegasus to Olympus.

Cassiopeia (cass ee oh pee' uh) beautiful but vain queen who gave her daughter as a sacrifice.

Cerberus (sir' bur us) three-headed dog that guards gates to Hades' kingdom of Tartarus.

Charon (kahr' uhn) boatman who ferries the dead across the river Styx.

Cronos (kroh' nus), Titan who marries Rhea and becomes father of the gods of Olympus.

Cyclops (sy' klops), pl. **Cyclopes** (sy kloh' peeze), a race of giants, children of Oranos, each one having one eye in the center of his forehead.

Daedalus (ded' uh lus) skilled workman who constructs labyrinth in Crete. He and his son Icarus escape imprisonment by using wings.

Demeter (duh mee' ter), goddess of agriculture and the harvest. Roman name: ceres (sear' eez)

Echo (eck' oh) nymph who falls in love with Narcissus and is punished by Hera for gossiping.

Eros (air' ohs), love god who is the son of Aphrodite. Roman name: Cupid.

Eurydice (yoo rid' uh see) wife of Orpheus. She is bitten by snakes.

Fates (fayts) The three dreaded sisters who were older than the gods. They spin, measure, and cut the thread of life. Even the gods must obey them.

Furies (fyoor' eez) Hade's hell-hags. They whipped evildoers on earth to drive them mad.

Gaia (jee' uh) female earth who marries Oranus the sky. She is the mother of Cronos and monsters such as Titans and Cyclopes.

Hades (hay' deez) god of the underworld.
Roman name: Pluto.

Hephaestus (Hef ess' tuhs) the smithy god.
Roman Name: Vulcan (Vul' kun)

Heracles (hur' uh cleez) hero who had to perform 12 hard labors after making Hera angry.
Roman name: Hercules (Hur' kyoo lees)

Hera (hair' uh / hee' ruh / hur' ruh) wife of Zeus and queen of the gods, of women and marriage.
Roman name: Juno (jew' noh).

Hermes (her' meez), messenger god and guide of dead souls to the underworld; god of travel, business, invention, and cunning.
Roman name: Mercury meaning quicksilver.

Hippolyta (hih pawl' uh tuh) queen of the Amazons - a giant race of women.

Icarus (ick' uh rus) son of Daedalus. He escapes Crete with his father, but flies too close to the sun and is drowned in the sea (Icarean Sea).

Medusa (muh doo' suh) snake-haired monster who turns people to stone. Was once beautiful.

Minos (my' nohs) king of Crete who owns the monster Minotaur.

Minotaur (mihn' oh tor) monster of the maze who is upper half bull and lower half man.

Muse (myooz) pl. **Muses** (myoo' zuhs) nine goddesses who govern the arts: Calliope, Clio, Melpomene, Euterpe, Erato, Terpsichore, Urania, Thalia, Polyhymnia.

Narcissus (nahr sys' us), gorgeous man who falls in love with his own reflection after rejecting Echo and is turned into a flower by the gods.

Nemesis (nem' uh sus) the goddess of justice who would reward or punish man as necessary. Hubris (too much pride) was the worst crime of all.

Olympus: Mountain where the 12 gods live.

Orpheus (or' fee uhs) greatest poet and musician of his time. Marries Eurydice and attempts to retrieve her from Hades after she dies.

Pan (pan) god of flocks, forests, and shepherds. His body is part human, with the legs, horns, and ears of a goat. That's how we get our word panic.

Pandora (pan dor' uh) opens a forbidden box, which sets loose the ills of the world.

Persephone (per sef' uh nee) Hades kidnaps her to be his queen. Her mother Demeter gets very upset and tries to get her back.

Perseus (per' see uhs) Greek hero who kills Medusa and saves Andromeda.

Phaethon (fay' uh thon), son of Apollo. He tries driving his father's sun chariot and fails.

Poseidon (poh sy' duhn) god of the sea who carries a trident. Roman name: Neptune.

Prometheus (proh mee' thee uhs) Titan who displeases Zeus by bringing fire to man.

Rhea (ree' uh), Titan goddess who marries Cronos. Mother of the Olympian gods.

Sisyphus (sihs' uh fuhs) punished by Zeus with the eternal job of rolling a stone uphill.

Styx (stiks) river in the underworld that the souls of the dead must cross to reach the underworld.

Tantalus (tan' tuh luhs) punished by Zeus with eternal thirst and hunger.

Tartarus (tar' tar uhs) the land of the dead ruled by Hades. A dark, cold, and gloomy place.

Theseus (thee' see uhs) hero who volunteers to go to Crete to destroy the Minotaur.

Titans (ty' tuhns) race of gigantic offspring of Oranos; called the "first race."

Uranus (Your' uh nus) or **Oranus** (Or'uh nuhs), Sky or "First One." Ancestor of all the gods who marries Gaia.

Zeus: (zooss) chief god of Olympus.
Roman names: Jupiter or Jove.

OLD WORLD REASONS FOR GREEK MYTHS:

- 1) to entertain (*no TVs!*)
- 2) to teach a lesson (*moral and spiritual*)
- 3) to explain nature (*pre-science!*)

Characters in myths:

- 1) gods (*see traits listed below*)
- 2) demi-gods ($\frac{1}{2}$ god - $\frac{1}{2}$ human--immortal)
- 3) heroes ($\frac{1}{2}$ god - $\frac{1}{2}$ human but mortal)
- 4) monsters
- 5) humans

Traits of the gods:

- 1) super strength
- 2) transformation powers
- 3) human emotions (*especially jealousy*)
- 4) immortal (live forever)

Things that made the gods get really mad:

- 1) hubris (*too much pride*)
- 2) disobedience