

Ancient Greece

Mythology Projects

Objectives:

1. Students will learn the characteristics of myth and understand how culture is revealed through the stories it tells.
2. Critical Attribute Lesson -- Students will be introduced to the characteristics of mythology and learn that ancient myths, legends, and stories:
 - _ can tell of natural events
 - _ can explain the creation of the world
 - _ are often fictional, and often meant to entertain
 - _ can explain ancient religion
 - _ can tell us about history
 - _ usually include gods and goddesses, heroes and heroines
 - _ sometimes teach moral lessons

Preparation:

Students read and take notes on at least five myths. If you need a suggestion for a god, see the list below. See electronic resources list if needed.

Activity One:

Students create their own jobs for the gods.

“By decree of the Oracle at Delphi the gods were asked to live among us on earth. They will be here for quite some time, so they will need to find work. Your job is to search the classifieds to find a suitable job for the god or goddess you selected. Fill out the job application for your god and in the center space at the bottom, paste your cut out employment ad from the newspaper. If you cannot find an existing ad from the paper, create your own.”

See example below.

What might be a suitable job for the god Hermes? Think: Since he is the messenger god he might be a mailman or Fed Ex man. Search the classifieds to find such a job posting or create your own job posting. Another way to do the assignment is to search the classifieds to see what comes to your attention for a job for the god. There may be jobs listed there that might apply that you did not think of ahead of time).

You will be given an application form. You must provide the newspaper classified ads. Try the Sunday Plain Dealer.

Activity Two:

Create a collage of a Greek god or hero after reading many myths.

Materials needed: Paper, glue, magazines and other art supplies you desire.

Process:

You have read many myths and have encountered many Greek gods, goddesses and heroes, it is time to create a collage based on their favorites.

1. Select a god, goddess or hero from Greek mythology.
2. Think about what characteristics your god or hero exhibited in the stories.
3. Search through magazines to find pictures of symbols of your characters. Cut them out to form a collage. In a collage the pictures overlap somewhat or are cut to fit right next to the next one. **Somewhere in your collage you should have the character's name.** When you are finished there should be no white showing from the back of the paper you are gluing your pictures to.

Post-lesson Questions:

1. Can you name a real-life modern hero? What did he or she do to become a hero? What need or concern of society did this hero meet or satisfy? How does the real-life hero compare with heroes from myths?
2. Do the Greek gods follow a moral code?
3. Write down one aspect of ancient Greek culture that is the same or different from our own.
4. Retell one myth in your own words. What is the moral of the story?

Partial list of gods:

Zeus Hera Apollo Poseidon Hades Hermes
 Dionysus

Demeter Persephone Athena Vulcan

This is just a partial list. I'm sure you can think of many more!

Electronic Resources:

www.mythweb.com

www.geocities.com/Athens/Oracle/5545/index.html

www.messagenet.com/myths

<http://mythman.com/>