

Gods & Mortals

Imaginative learning project for year 3/4



Meet Zeus, King of Greek Gods, rulers of the skies, cloud gatherer and master of rain. Listen to his torrid tale of how he fought and conquered his father, Cronus, then drew lots with his brothers, Poseidon and Hades, to become supreme ruler of the gods. Find out about his deadly powers and his lightning thunderbolt which he hurled at those who displeased him. Hear why he carried his sceptre and his regal eagle. What can you discover about the mighty Zeus?

History Focus. Key Facts:

- The Ancient Greeks lived about 4000 years ago. Ancient Greece was made up of many city-states.
- War was a big part of life in ancient Greece. The armies were made up of foot soldiers known as hoplites.
- Ancient Greece was a warm, dry country. Most people worked as farmers, fishermen or traders
- Men made all the important decisions in ancient Greece.
- The ancient Greeks loved sport and started holding the Olympic Games. Wars were stopped so people could travel from all over Greece to take part in and watch the Games.
- The ancient Greeks were great craftspeople. They made pottery vases that were decorated with scenes from daily life or geometric designs.
- The Ancient Greeks believed the Gods and Goddesses watched over them from the top of Mount Olympus and that each god or goddess had power over a different part of the world.
- Greek myths are stories about the gods and magical creatures of Ancient Greece.

Key Vocabulary

- ⇒ City state: an ancient city and the surrounding area with an independent government, such as Athens and Sparta
- ⇒ Conquer: to take control of another country and its people, usually after a war or battle
- ⇒ Dedicate: to do something in honour of a person or a thing
- ⇒ Democracy: a system where the government is elected by the people
- ⇒ Hoplite: a heavily armoured, non-professional foot soldier of ancient Greece
- ⇒ Labyrinth: a confusing set of complicated, connecting passages and blind alleys that make it easy to get lost
- ⇒ Minotaur: in Greek mythology, a monster that is half man and half bull, who lived in the centre of a labyrinth
- ⇒ Myth: an ancient story that explains the early history of a group of people

Homework Projects

- ◆ Read and retell the story of Medusa, the Gorgon. Illustrate your story.
- ◆ Design a mythical creature. Which animals' body parts could you include in your design?
- ◆ Look carefully at the shapes of the letters of the Greek alphabet. Practise forming them and pronouncing them.
- ◆ Find out about famous Greek philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Archimedes and Pythagoras. How did their work influence life today? Make a scrapbook with information and images.
- ◆ Read about Narcissus, the young man who fell in love with his own reflection. What is the moral of the story? Write a letter to Narcissus, telling him to change his ways!