

Greek Gods Stories



A Story About Zeus

Zeus was the god of the sky and ruler of the gods.

He was once travelling with his son, Hermes. Both men were disguised as ordinary men. On their travels, they stopped at many different houses asking for shelter and food, but they were refused every time.

Zeus and his son came to a house belonging to a very poor, elderly couple. Baucis and her husband, Philemon, offered the visitors a meal and somewhere to rest for the night. As refreshment, the couple

offered the men their only jug of wine. Later that evening, Baucis noticed that the jug had been refilled so she turned to her husband and told him that the men must be gods.

Zeus punished those who had refused them food and shelter by causing a terrible flood. All the homes in the valley were destroyed, except for the hut belonging to Baucis and Philemon. To repay their kindness, Zeus transformed their little hut into a temple, where they lived out their lives as priestess and priest. As Baucis and Philemon were such a devoted couple, Zeus agreed to ensure that they would never be parted. When they died, they turned into oak and linden trees. The branches of the trees were entwined.



A Story About Athena and Poseidon

Athena was the strong and wise daughter of Zeus. When she was born, she was dressed in armour and carried a shield and sword.

Poseidon was the god of the seas. He had a beard, long hair, drove a golden chariot and carried a trident. Athena and Poseidon were rivals.

The people of a new city wanted a god to look after them and both Athena and Poseidon wanted this important role.

To try and impress the citizens, Poseidon gave the city a gift. When he struck his trident into the ground, water gushed out. The water became a river, which flowed to the sea. Poseidon told the people to build ships so that they could sail to the sea, enabling them to travel anywhere and become prosperous and powerful people. The citizens were impressed and began to think that Poseidon would be a good protector, then Athena told them to taste the water. The people were disgusted by the taste of the saltwater and began to change their minds about Poseidon.

Next, Athena gave the people of the city her gift. She struck the ground with her spear and a tree began to grow. Athena told the citizens that it was an olive tree which had many uses. Firstly, the wood could be used for building and heating, the olives growing on the tree could be eaten and thirdly, the oil from the olives could be used when cooking. The people preferred

Athena's gift and they chose her to protect the city. The citizens decided to name the city after her, calling it Athens. Poseidon wasn't happy about the decision, so he caused a terrible flood.

With the help of Athena, the city became strong and prosperous. Today, it is the capital city of Greece.



A Story About Hermes and Apollo

Zeus was Hermes' father. Hermes was born in a cave and hours later, decided he would make himself a toy. He found a tortoise shell, tied strings across it and plucked them to make the very first music. Hermes had created the first musical instrument, the lyre.

His beautiful playing made his mother sleepy. Whilst she was sleeping, he left the cave and went out to explore the world he had been born into.

Hermes came across a herd of cattle which belonged to Apollo, one of the gods. Hermes liked the animals so much that he decided to steal them. He found a hiding place for the cattle, then returned to the cave, climbing back into his mother's arms as if nothing had happened.

Apollo was furious to see his cattle had been stolen so he began searching for the thief. He found Hermes eventually, but was shocked to find that he was only a baby. Apollo wanted his cattle back, so Hermes began playing the lyre. Apollo was completely enchanted by the music and let Hermes keep the cattle, in exchange for the instrument. From this moment onwards, Apollo carried the lyre with him.

Throughout his life, Hermes continued to be mischievous. He wore a winged hat and sandals which meant he could travel quickly. This helped him to send messages between the gods and the mortals.



Stories about Ares

Ares was the god of war. He carried a shield and wore armour.

Ares wasn't loyal in battle and during the Trojan War, he promised his mother that he would help the Greeks. However, Ares was in love with Aphrodite and she easily persuaded him to help the Trojans instead.

He never fought with fellow gods, so he challenged a Greek mortal named Diomedes. Diomedes wounded Ares and even though the wound wasn't serious, he ran crying to his father, Zeus. His father bandaged the wound for him, but he wasn't proud of his so-called warrior son.



A Story About Aphrodite

Aphrodite, the goddess of love, was very beautiful. She once started a war without meaning to.

The goddess Eris enjoyed being a trouble maker, so she made a golden apple. On the apple, she wrote the words, 'For the fairest', then left it where she knew the goddesses Hera, Aphrodite and Athena would find it. Each one of them believed that she was the fairest goddess, so they chose a mortal named Paris to decide who should own the apple.

Each goddess tried to impress Paris with a gift. Athena said she would turn him into a courageous and successful soldier, Hera promised to make him very powerful and Aphrodite offered him the love of the most beautiful woman in the world. Paris chose Aphrodite, which played perfectly into Eris' hands.

The most beautiful woman in the world was Helen, who was married to the king of Sparta. When Helen and Paris ran away to Troy, the king was angry. He sent his soldiers to declare war on Troy and as a consequence, the Trojan War lasted for ten years.



A Story About Hades

Hades, Zeus and Poseidon were brothers.

Hades ruled the world of the dead, also known as the Underworld. He had a chariot which was drawn by four black horses. Hades was responsible for making sure the dead stayed in the Underworld for all time. Rather unusually, Orpheus, who was a wonderful singer, returned from the Underworld. When his wife died, he travelled to the Underworld to get her back. Orpheus' singing enchanted Hades so much that he agreed to let him have his wife back, but on one

condition; Orpheus wasn't allowed to look at his wife as they left the Underworld. However, as they were leaving, Orpheus looked behind him to check his wife was following, meaning she had to stay in the Underworld forever.



A Story About Hephaestus

Hephaestus was Hera's son, but she wasn't a good mother to him. When he grew older, Hephaestus decided to take revenge on her, so he created a golden throne to send to his mother. Hera thought the gift was wonderful and immediately sat down. All of a sudden, unbreakable chains tied her up and she couldn't be freed. The gods realised that the only person who could free Hera was her son.

The gods asked Dionysus, the god of wine, to intoxicate Hephaestus. Having drunk plenty, Hephaestus was led to Mount Olympus to free Hera, which he did. In return, the gods gave him Aphrodite, who was to be his wife.



A Story About Artemis

Artemis was Apollo's twin sister. She was goddess of hunting and the moon. She hunted in the forests with a bow and arrow. Artemis was also smart, and a very good fighter.

The river god, Alpheus, fell in love with Artemis and chased her through the forest. Artemis covered her face in mud, as did her nymphs (female followers). Alpheus couldn't tell Artemis apart from the nymphs, so he gave up his search for her.



A Story About Hestia

Hestia was the oldest of the gods of Olympus. She was also very beautiful. The other gods had duties, but for some time, nobody knew what Hestia could be responsible for.

Apollo and Poseidon once announced to Zeus that they both loved Hestia, and that he must choose the best husband for her. Zeus didn't want the gods fighting between themselves, so he knew this had to be resolved. He didn't have to worry though, because Hestia solved the problem herself. She told both men that she would never

marry. As a token of appreciation, Zeus gave Hestia a key to Olympus and put her in charge of making sure the gods had everything they needed, such as food and clothing. Zeus also made Hestia the goddess of the home and family.

Hestia wanted a quiet, happy and peaceful life, so when Zeus' half-son Dionysus went to Olympus demanding a throne, Hestia was more than happy to give hers up for him. Being the goddess of the home, she was too busy to sit down anyway!



A Story About Demeter

Erysichthon was a very arrogant, selfish and greedy man. In Thessaly, there was a huge oak tree dedicated to Demeter, the goddess of agriculture. The tree was decorated by the local people and many used it as a place to make vows to the goddess.

Erysichthon ordered that his slaves cut the tree down in order to make a banqueting table. None of his slaves felt they could do such a thing, so Erysichthon did it himself.

During the first hit, Demeter appeared to him as a priest, requesting that he stop what he was doing, but Erysichthon continued regardless. Next, Demeter appeared to him in her goddess form. She sent away the slaves and punished Erysichthon with a curse. The curse was that Erysichthon's hunger would never be satisfied.