



Greek Mythology - #1
 Definitions/History/Beliefs Notes

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| Myth | An ancient, anonymous story about supernatural gods and heroes and explain many things that occur in nature. |
| Ancient | Extremely old |
| Anonymous | Author/creator unknown |
| Supernatural | Beyond humanly possible |
| Deity | Gods which never die and have super powers. Example – Zeus, Apollo, Cyclops |
| Demi-god - Hero | One parent is a god; has super powers. Example- Hercules |
| History of Greek Myths | Greece & Asia Minor (about 2,000 years ago) |
| Oral Versions (word of mouth) | As early as 1800 B.C. |
| Bard | Poets, early storytellers A. |
| Written Versions | 700 B.C. |
| Main Sources: | |
| Hesiod  | 700 B.C. Wrote <i>The Theogony</i> (inspired by the muses) poem about the creation of the gods |

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| <p>Homer</p>  | <p>1100 B.C. to 700 B.C. (perhaps even earlier)</p> <p>Wrote <i>The Iliad</i> and <i>The Odyssey</i>; epic poems</p> |
| <p>Epic</p> | <p>Long narrative poem with a hero who performs heroic deeds.</p> |
| <p>Ages of Mankind</p> | <p>As told by Hesiod</p> |
| <p>1. Golden</p> | <p>Rule of the Titans</p> |
| <p>2. Silver</p> | <p>Rule of Zeus (Olympians) mankind is destroyed since they do not honor the gods.</p> |
| <p>3. Bronze</p> | <p>Rule of Zeus (Olympians) Mankind re-created and were warlike, mankind dies in a flood (Deucalion myth)</p> |
| <p>4. Iron Age of Heroes</p> | <p>Hercules, Perseus, Theseus</p> |
| <p>5. Iron Age- Present Day</p> | |
| <p>Beliefs –</p> | <p>Cultural Understanding of the Universe</p> |
| <p>1. Earth (see link of Hesiod’s map)</p> | <p>Spherical with Greece in the middle and the highest point to be Mt. Olympus. The center of the universe.</p> |
| <p>2. Mt. Olympus</p> | <p>Home of the Olympian gods in the realm above Mt. Olympus.</p> |
| <p>3. Underworld</p> | <p>Underneath the earth and the realm of the dead; not to be feared.</p> |
| <p>4. Oceanus (Titan)</p> | <p>River encircling the earth</p> |

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| 5. River Styx (Titan) | River that divided the land of the living from the land of the dead. One could only enter by paying the ferryman, Charon, with a coin under the tongue. Without payment a soul is lost for 100 years in the river of the dead. |
| Charon (deity)  | Ferryman who will take souls across the river with payment which was a coin under the tongue. Without payment, a soul is lost for 100 years. |
| Elysian Fields | Place similar to heaven and reserved for the most-respected mortals and heroes. |
| Immortal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deities; gods who can never die but can feel pain. • As gods, they do not follow mortal man's laws and morals. As a god, one could marry his sister. |
| Prophetic (Foresee) | Some gods were prophetic and could see into the future. |
| Oracles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help man communicate with the gods. First were temples and later priests. Where the priest was housed became the oracle or temple. |