

GODS OF GREECE

The Ancient Greeks adored their gods and used them to explain and control lots of aspects of their lives. Lots of the Greek gods later went on to be adopted by the Ancient Romans. These are five of their most important.



ZEUS

The Ancient Greeks considered Zeus to be the king of all their gods. He was the father of many other gods. These included: Ares, Athena and Apollo. His wife was Hera.

Zeus had many powers. He had the ability to throw lightning bolts, mimic other people's voices and shape-shift.

ARES

Ares was the Ancient Greek God of War. He was a son of Zeus and Hera and was infatuated with Aphrodite.

It was thought that Ares loved to see people fighting each other. He would ride into battle in a chariot pulled by fire-breathing horses.



ATHENA

As the Goddess of Wisdom, Athena gave her name to the city of Athens.

Athena was also considered to play a part in wars. Unlike Ares, Athena was more interested in tactics and strategy.

The Ancient Greeks believed that Athena was responsible for inventing many useful items. Some of her inventions included the ship, the chariot and the rake.

She was also a daughter of Zeus.

APHRODITE

Love and beauty were significant to the Ancient Greeks. They named Aphrodite as the goddess of both. She was famously the most beautiful of all the goddesses.

In pictures, she is often pictured with Eros, the God of Love.

It was believed that Aphrodite could cause people to fall in love. Fighting couples would often pray to her to help them make up.



APOLLO

Apollo was the Ancient Greek God of the Sun. He was a child of Zeus and the protector of the city of Delphi. It was rumoured that he wore a laurel wreath on his head to honour his love for Daphne.

Like all of the most powerful Greek gods, Apollo was immortal.

It was thought that Apollo guided the arrow into Achilles' heel during the Trojan War.

VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. Find a word or phrase that shows how the Ancient Greeks felt about their gods.
2. Which word tells you that the Romans later took some of the Greek gods as their own?
3. What does the word “infatuated” tell you about Ares’s feelings towards Aphrodite?
4. Find a word or phrase that is close in meaning to “talked about without any evidence”.
5. Copy a phrase that tells you how the Ancient Greeks felt about love.

VIPERS QUESTIONS

R

Who was the God of War?

S

List the gods or goddesses listed here that were children of Zeus.

S

Write down one of Zeus’s powers.

I

Why do you think Aphrodite was often represented by a beautiful woman?

I

Which god or goddess would have helped the leaders of armies work out how to defeat an enemy? Why?

Answers:

1. Adored
2. Adopted
3. He was madly in love with her/couldn't stop thinking about her
4. Rumoured
5. Love and beauty were significant to the Ancient Greeks.

R: Ares

S: Ares, Athena, Apollo

S: One of: the ability to throw lightning bolts, mimic other people's voices and shape-shift.

I: She was the Goddess of Love and Beauty

I: Athena - she was the Goddess of War but was more interested in tactics and strategy - do not accept Ares