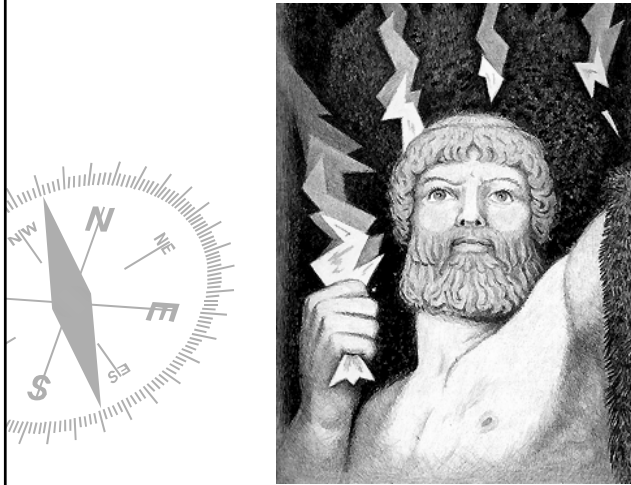


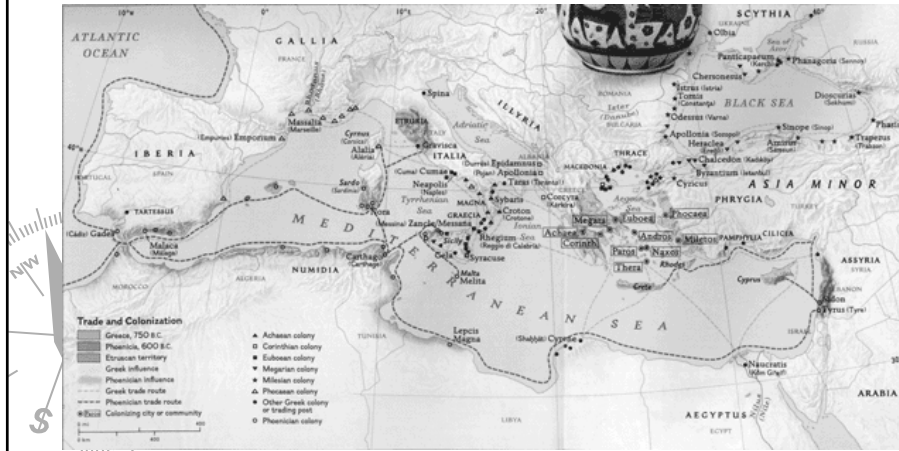
The Gods and Goddesses of Greek Mythology



Where did Greek Mythology begin?



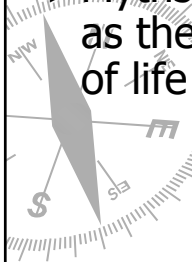
Long, long ago in ancient Greece, people told stories that explained the mysteries of life...



A map of the Mediterranean ca750 BCE, when the Homeric texts were first written down.
<http://www.uark.edu/campus-resources/achilles/maps/maps.html>

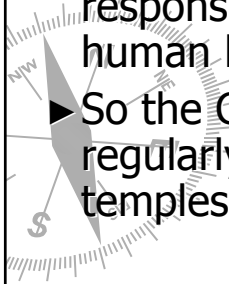
So what is Greek Mythology?

- ▶ Mythology is a collection of myths, or anonymous, traditional stories that explain our beliefs and customs, the wonders of nature and our own history
- ▶ Myths usually deal with major issues such as the origin of humanity and the mysteries of life
- ▶ Remember that *every* culture has its own myths, i.e. American Indians, Mayans, Buddhists, Hindus, Africans, etc...



The Greek mythology of today was the religion of yesterday

- ▶ Long ago, the Greeks and Romans believed in the stories we now call myths.
- ▶ The gods and goddesses ruled the Greek world and were believed to be directly responsible for the success or failure of human life.
- ▶ So the Greeks worshipped their gods and regularly prayed, gave offerings and built temples to please the gods.



Three Important Words that Describe the Greeks

- ▶ **Anthropomorphism** : means to give human form or qualities to beings or things not human, especially to gods
- ▶ **Polytheism** : means the belief in many gods
- ▶ **Oral Tradition** : to pass down from generation to generation by word of mouth

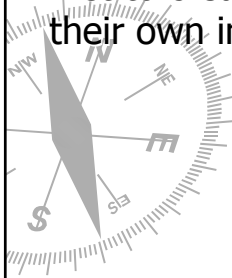


The Unique Greeks

- ▶ The Greeks were distinctly different from all previous civilizations because they were the first to create gods in their own image

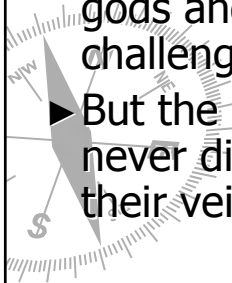


The Egyptian Sphinx was certainly not a very human-like god



The Immortal Gods were also easier to relate to than previous gods

- ▶ Unlike religious gods today, the Greek gods looked and acted human
- ▶ They married, loved and quarreled; they had love affairs (and children) with both gods and mortals; they also loved games, challenges and trickery
- ▶ But the gods were immortal and would never die because *ichor*, not blood, ran in their veins



Mount Olympus

- ▶ The gods and goddesses lived at the top of Mt. Olympus in Greece behind a gate of clouds.
- ▶ There they ate only ambrosia and drank only nectar.
- ▶ They also kept an eye on the mortals down on earth, which they could visit at any time.



To understand the most famous Greek gods, it's important to know where they came from... Their story begins at the beginning of time.

➤ At first there was only darkness, or Chaos.

Then Gaea, the Earth, grew out of Chaos



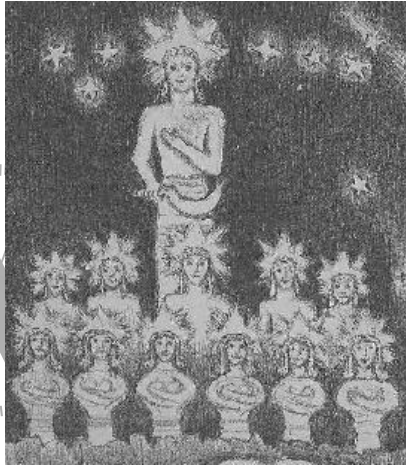
- ▶ Gaea gave birth to Uranus, the sky.
- ▶ When rain fell on Gaea, plants, animals and rivers were created.



- ▶ Gaea became Mother Earth, mother of all living things and mother of the first gods.

The Titans

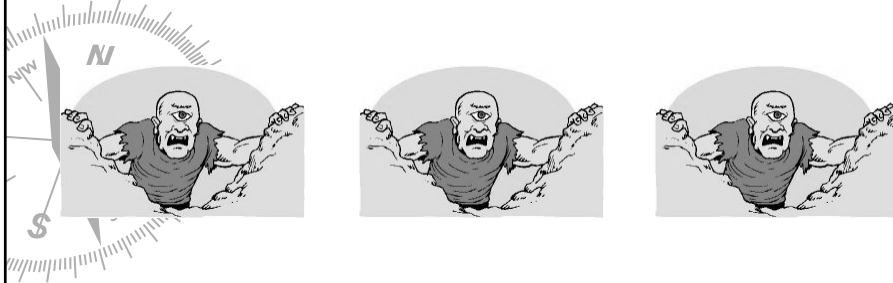
- ▶ Gaea and Uranus gave birth to 12 Titans, all powerful giants – 6 boys and 6 girls.



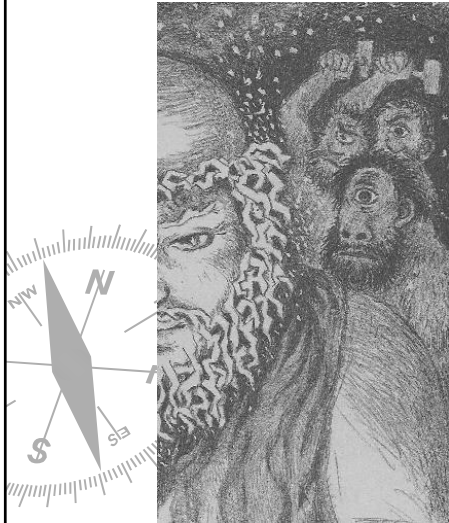
Atlas is the son of one of the Titans

Gaea gave birth to more children...

- ▶ Three huge one-eyed giants called Cyclopes
- ▶ And three Hecatoncheires – each of these monsters had 50 heads and 100 arms.



Uranus hated these ugly children and threw them away into the Underworld



► This greatly angered Gaea and she convinced Cronus, one of the Titans, to overthrow Uranus.

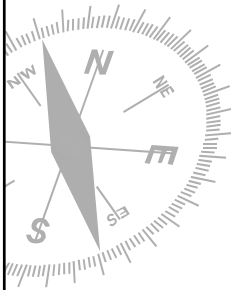
Cronus succeeded in overthrowing Uranus and became the new Lord of the Universe.



► But Cronus worried that one of his sons would overthrow him just as he had overthrown his own father... so he swallowed each child as it was born.

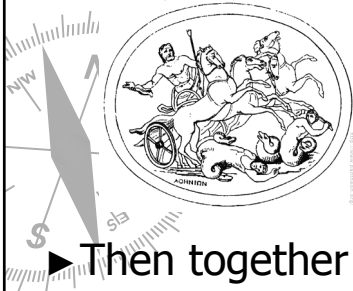
This made Cronus' wife, Rhea, very angry.

- ▶ Finally, she hid the youngest child, Zeus, and tricked Cronus with a rock wrapped in a blanket.



When Zeus grew up...

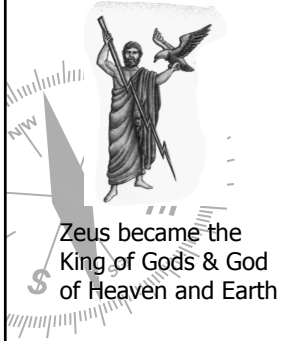
- ▶ he overthrew Cronus and freed his brothers and sisters, Hestia, Demeter, Hera, Hades and Poseidon.



- ▶ Then together they fought the Titans.

The war between the old gods and the new gods lasted 10 years – but finally Cronus and the Titans were defeated.

- ▶ When Mother Earth was finally peaceful, the rule of the Universe was divided between the 3 brothers:



Poseidon became God of the Sea



Hades became God of the Underworld

The Great Olympians

- ▶ The Cyclopes built a palace on Mt. Olympus for Zeus with 12 thrones: one for each of Zeus' brothers, sisters, his children and Aphrodite, the Goddess of Love.
- ▶ The 12 great Olympians ruled from the top of Mt. Olympus forever after.
- ▶ Next week you will begin research for a report of information about a Greek god or goddess of your choice in order to learn more about them.