

Greek-Roman Mythology

First Generation:

Gaea--Mother Goddess, Mother Earth--who nourishes all life; **Uranus**--Son and husband of Gaea; ruler of the sky.

Second Generation:

Hundred-handed Giants--triplets; best known = **Briareus**;

Cyclopes: triplets; one-eyed metal smiths, servants of Zeus.

Titans: 13 immortals who ruled the universe before the gods conquered them; enormous size, known for their strength. Major Titans = **Cronus, Rhea, Helios, Selene, Themis, Atlas, Prometheus, Epimetheus**.

Third Generation:

Olympians: Gods who lived on Mt. Olympus --Mountain? Heaven? Succeeded the Titans; a divine family.

Major Olympians

Greek Name	Roman Name	Position
Zeus	Jupiter	Chief god; maintains order in the world; protects strangers and guests.
Poseidon	Neptune	Brother of Zeus; lord of the sea; causes earthquakes
Hades	Pluto	Brother of Zeus; lord of the dead and ruler of the underworld.
Hestia	Vesta	Sister of Zeus; kindest and most loved of the gods; guardian of the home.
Hera	Juno	Wife of Zeus; queen of Olympus; goddess of marriage and childbirth.
Demeter	Ceres	Sister of Zeus: goddess of grain and harvest.
Ares	Mars	Son of Zeus and Hera; god of war.
Athena	Minerva	Child of Zeus; goddess of arts and handicrafts & defensive war; goddess of wisdom.
Apollo		Child of Zeus; god of prophecy, medicine, archery and music; god of the sun.
Aphrodite	Venus	Child of Zeus; goddess of love (desire) and beauty.
Hermes	Mercury	Child of Zeus; Zeus' messenger; guides travelers; leads souls to the underworld; helps merchants/thieves.
Artemis	Diana	Child of Zeus; goddess of the hunt; goddess of the moon.
Hephaestus	Vulcan	Child of Hera (Husband of Aphrodite) metalsmith of the gods; creative, skillful
Persephone	Proserpine	Child of Demeter (Wife of Hades); queen of the underworld.

Lesser Olympians and/or gods of the earth (Greeks)

Heracles

Son of Zeus and a mortal woman, known for great strength; only hero to become immortal ("Twelve Labors"); Roman name = **Hercules**.

Eros: God of Love; Roman name = **Cupid**.

Iris: Goddess of the rainbow

Eris: Goddess of arguments, discord.

Dionysus: God of wine; Roman name = Bacchus.

Graces (3)

Aglaia (Splendor); **Euphrosyne** (Mirth); **Thalia** (Good Cheer); presided over the banquet, the dance, and all social enjoyments and elegant arts.

Muses (9)

Clio (History); **Urania** (Astronomy); **Melpomene** (Tragedy); **Thalia** (Comedy); **Terpsichore** (Dance); **Calliope** (Epic Poetry); **Erato** (Love Poetry); **Polyhymnia** (Sacred Poetry); **Euterpe** (Lyric Poetry); presided over song and prompted memory--assigned to art, literature or science.

Pegasus

Winged horse of the Muses; available to serve poets.

Fates (3)

Clotho (the Spinner--spun the thread of life); **Lachesis** (the Disposer of Lots--gave each person his/her destiny); **Atropos** (cut the thread at death).

Furies (3)

Also called **Erinnyes**; **Alecto**, **Tisiphone**, **Megaera**; terrible in appearance; punished those who escaped justice with secret stings.

Gorgons

Monstrous females with huge teeth (like pigs), claws, and snaky hair. Their looks could turn men into stone. Most famous Gorgon = **Medusa**.

Nemesis

An avenging goddess who represents the righteous anger of the gods--especially against the proud and insolent.

Pan

God of flocks and shepherds; part animal; a merry god; played a set of pipes.

Siren

Lived on an island; her singing lured sailors to their death.

Oreads: Lovely nymphs of the mountains.

Dryads: Lovely nymphs of the trees.

Satyrs: Woodland deities--looked like goat-men.

Centaurs: Woodland deities; half-human, half horse.

