

GREEK PANTHEON

The Ancient Greeks worshipped many gods and goddesses whom they believed appeared in human form and yet were endowed with superhuman powers and strength. Each Greek city was normally under the protection of one or more individual deities who were worshipped with special emphasis. The Greek Pantheon was made up of all the gods who lived on the mount Olympus.

APHRODITE was the goddess of love and beauty. Aphrodite loved and was loved by many gods.

APOLLO was the god of music who delighted the other gods with his performance on the lyre. He was also a master archer and a fleet-footed athlete. He was the god of agriculture and cattle, and of light and truth as well.

ARES was the god of war and conflict. He was very aggressive and unpopular among both gods and humans. He personified the brutal nature of the war.

ASCLEPIOS was the god of Medicine.

ARTEMIS was the goddess of hunting and animals, as well as childbirth.

ATHENA was one of the most important goddesses in Greek mythology. She was the goddess of wisdom, war, the arts, industry, justice and skill. Athena sprang fully-grown and armored from the forehead of the god Zeus, and she was his favorite child. She was fierce and brave in battle, but only fought to protect the state and the home from outside enemies. She was also the protector of all the cities and states.

DEMETER was the goddess of corn and the harvest.

EROS was the god of love, a young playful god frequently shown as creating love by shooting a gold-tipped arrow.

HADES was the god of the underworld. He decided whether the souls of the dead would remain in his dark realm of get to spend eternity in the Elysian Fields; a bright paradise for heroes.

HEPHAISTOS was the master smith of the gods, god of fire and patron of craftsmen.

HERA was the queen of the Olympian gods, worshipped as the goddess of marriage, women and childbirth. She was the jealous wife of Zeus.

HERMES was mainly considered the Olympians' messenger. As the special servant and courier of Zeus, Hermes has winged sandals and a winged hat. He was the protector of flocks and shepherds, the guide and protector of travelers, conductor of souls to the underworld, patron of orators, writers, athletes, merchants and thieves, and the bearer of good luck.

HESTIA was the virgin goddess of the hearth. She was the symbol of the home.

PERSEPHONE was the goddess of the underworld. She was the goddess of spring and daughter of Demeter, goddess of the harvest, but was stolen by Hades to be his queen. Persephone was so unhappy in the underground that the gods allowed her to spend six months of the year at Olympus- during this time earth was warm and in bloom.

POSEIDON was the brother of Zeus and god of the sea.

ZEUS was the father of gods and men, ruler of Olympian gods, protector of the kings and supporter of law and order. He created the first humans and protected them. His power came from the thunderbolts he threw, but was best known for his many adventures with mortal women.

