

Subject Guides

Greek Myths

Greenwood Public Library



This pathfinder is made to help you find information on the Greek gods and myths. The pathfinder is designed for students in grades K-12 or teachers and parents that want to learn more or teach about the subject. This pathfinder includes: keywords, print material, multimedia items, websites and activities.

Electronic materials are great resources for you to learn about Ancient Greece their gods and myths. Most of you probably will never get the experience of going to Greece, so through electronic materials you can learn about Greece and what it was like to live in the times of the gods. All of this information is provided by the use of electronic materials and can be accessed from the comfort of the library or your home.

The electronic materials that are in this pathfinder were found mostly through Google and GoGooligans (are kid appropriate search engine powered by Google). Each website was looked over for correct information, who was providing the information and added for its educational value. The Kids Search database, which is part of INSPIRE, and NoveList database was accessed through Greenwood Public Library. The print materials were searched for through Greenwood Public Library's Evergreen catalog and are available through Greenwood's library or other Evergreen libraries.

There are a lot of websites and information out on the Internet that talks about the Greek gods. We tried to incorporate both sides of any bias and provide quality information that can be used for educational or personal needs. Have fun learning the Greek gods!

Keywords & Searching Tips

When searching for information through an electronic database or Internet search engine, you may find more or stronger resources by using the following tips:

We have provided some keywords below that you can use while trying to find the information you want. If you are searching for a specific phrase like: Jason and the Argonauts put parenthesis around the phrase like this: "Jason and the Argonauts". This will only give you search results with that phrase and not the words: Jason, and, the, and the Argonauts.

Greek gods Keywords

- Greek gods or goddesses
- Greek Mythology
- The Olympian Gods
- The Titans
- The Lesser Greek Gods

Try searching for a specific god by their name. For example: Zeus, Hera, Hades...

Use this [list of Greek gods and Mythological creatures](#) page on Wikipedia as a starting point to know what name you want to search for. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_gods

Greek Heroes, Creatures and Myths Keywords

- Greek Legends
- Greek heroes
- Greek monsters
- Greek creatures
- Greek myths or mythology
- Ancient Greece
- Ancient Greek stories

Try searching for a specific hero or creature by name. For example: Hercules, Nymph, Cyclops... Use this [list of Greek gods and Mythological creatures](#) page on Wikipedia as a starting point to know what name you want to search for. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_gods

Greek History Keywords

- Greek History
- Ancient Greece
- Minoans
- Mycenaens
- Ancient Aegeans

Try searching for a specific time in Greek history. For example: The Trojan War.

Multimedia

The following multimedia items contain both educational and recreational materials regarding Greek Myths. The comprised list does not include all of the library's holding on the subject. For additional information, search the catalog by selecting "video recordings" from the drop down menu and type in a keyword.

[Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief](#) Trouble-prone teen Percy Jackson is about to be kicked out school - but that's the least of his problems. The gods of Mount Olympus and assorted monsters seem to have walked out of the pages of Percy's Greek mythology texts and into his life - and they're not happy. Zeus' lightning bolt has been stolen, and Percy is the prime

suspect. Now, Percy and his friends must embark on a cross-country adventure to catch the true thief, save Percy's family, and unravel a mystery more powerful than the gods themselves.

[Jim Henson's the Storyteller - Greek Myths](#) A storyteller in a labyrinth tells his dog the stories of Perseus and Medusa, Icarus and Daedalus, Theseus and the Minotaur, and Orpheus and Euridyce.

[Jason and the Argonauts](#) Jason is a fearless sailor and explorer, who returns to the kingdom of Thessaly after a 20 year voyage to make his rightful claim to the throne. But to do so, Jason must first find the magical Golden Fleece which is guarded by a 100-foot bronze giant, the venomous Hydra, and an army of skeletons.

Fiction/Nonfiction Books

Nonfiction : Grades K-5

[Ancient Greek Myths and Legends](#) by Philip Ardagh Retells some of the most famous Greek myths about gods, goddesses, humans, heroes, and monsters, explaining the background of the tales and how they have survived. Suggested level: Preschool-3rd grade. (J 398.2 ARD)

[Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Greece](#) by Leon Ashworth Aiming to help children understand how people lived in Ancient Greece, what they believed, and why, this book examines: how the seasons worked; why natural disasters happened; what happened to people when they died; and how mythology sheds light on everyday life and social systems. Suggested level: Preschool-3rd grade. (J 292 ASH)

[Greek Myths for Young Children](#) by Marcia Williams Retells eight Greek myths in a comic strip format, including "Pandora's Box," "The Twelve Tasks of Heracles," and "Theseus and the Minotaur." Suggested level: grades 1-6 (J 292 WIL)

[The Gods and Goddesses of Olympus](#) by Aliko Provides basic information on the Gods and Goddesses of Greece beginning with Gaea, Uranus, and the Titans, to the rise and fall of Cronus and the defeat of the Titans by the new gods (Zeus and the Olympians). Suggested level: grades 2-4 (J 292.2 ALI)

[Greek Myths](#) by Jacqueline Morley An illustrated collection of twenty Greek myths including "Prometheus and Pandora," "Theseus and the Minotaur," "Meleager and the blazing logs," and "The story of Phaeton." Suggested level: grades 3-6 (J 292 MOR)

[Greek Gods and Goddesses](#) by Geraldine McCaughrean A collection of fifteen retellings of Greek myths. Suggested level: grades 3-6 (J 292.1 MCC)

[Gods and Goddesses](#) by John Malam Discusses the important gods and goddesses of ancient Greece and retells some of the myths about them, including Zeus, Hera, Athena, and Hades. Suggested level: grades 3-6 (J 292.2 MAL)

[The Ancient Greeks](#) by Virginia Schomp A retelling of several key ancient Greek myths, with background information describing the history, geography, belief systems, and customs of the ancient Greeks. Suggested level: grades 4-7 (J 398.2 SCH)

[Inгри & Edgar Parin d'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths](#) Tells of gods, goddesses, and legendary figures of ancient Greece and brings them to life in the myths that have inspired great literature and art throughout the ages. Suggested level: grades 4-7 (J 292 AUL)

Fiction : Grades K-5

[Max & Ruby's 1st Greek Myth](#) by Rosemary Wells Ruby tries to stop her younger brother Max from sneaking into her room and snooping by reading him an altered version of "Pandora's Box." Suggested level: Preschool-grade 3 or younger (J WEL)

[Max & Ruby's Midas](#) by Rosemary Wells Ruby tries to keep her brother Max from eating so many sweets by reading him an altered version of the story of King Midas. (J PIC WEL)

[The Trouble with Wishes](#) by Diane Stanley Jane wishes she were more like her friend Pyg the sculptor until Pyg's statue of a beautiful goddess comes to life and teaches them both to be careful what they wish for. Based on the Greek myth of Pygmalion. (J PIC STA)

[Mount Olympus Basketball](#) by Kevin O'Malley Zeus, Hera, Athene, Poseidon, and Hades pull some dirty tricks as they face off against Hercules, Jason, Odysseus, Achilles, and Theseus in this gods versus mortals basketball game in ancient Greece. (J PIC OMA)

[It's all Greek to Me](#) by Jon Scieszka As they are about to go on stage, Joe, Fred, and Sam are transported back to the time of Zeus and the other gods in Greek mythology, who, strangely enough, behave much as the characters in the trio's class play. (J SCI)

Myth-O-Mania Series by Kate McMullan

- [Nice Shot Cupid!](#) "What a myth-o-maniac! Zeus's version of the myths is completely wrong. That story about ultra-handsome Greek god Cupid and how he met Psyche? Get real! Cupid was a gawky teen god with bad skin and braces. Greek god? He was a Greek geek! It's time to

set the record straight. For the first time ever, Hades, King of the Underworld, reveals the true story behind the myths."--Cover, p. 4.

- [Stop that bull, Theseus!](#) Hades, King of the Underworld, tells the true story behind the Greek myth of Theseus finding his way through the labyrinth to slay the Minotaur.
- [Keep a lid on it, Pandora!](#) Hades, King of the Underworld, tells the true story behind the Greek myth about Pandora opening a box and releasing terrible evils into the world.

[Medusa Jones](#) by Ross Collins In ancient Greece, Medusa Jones, a gorgon, and her friends, a minotaur and a centaur, are mocked and sneered at by the other Acropolis Academy children whose parents are kings and gods, but when they go on a school camping trip together, the "freaks" become true heroes. (J COL)

Tales from the Odyssey Series by Mary Pope Osborne

- [The One Eyed Giant](#) Retells a part of the Odyssey in which King Odysseus fights the cyclops. Book 1
- [The Land of the Dead](#) A retelling of part of the Odyssey in which Odysseus and his fleet continue their journey and encounter giant cannibals, a beautiful witch, and the Land of the Dead. Book 2
- [Sirens and Sea Monsters](#) After returning from the land of the dead, Odysseus and his men are warned that the rest of his journey will remain challenging as they will have to face a deadly six-headed monster and a fierce whirlpool before finally reaching port. Book 3
- [The Gray-Eyed Goddess](#) Retells a part of the Odyssey in which Odysseus continues his journey home as his wife, Penelope and son, Telemachus are busy warding off men who wish to marry Penelope, until Telemachus asks a stranger for help. Book 4
- [Return to Ithaca](#) Retells part of Homer's Odyssey in which Odysseus, with the help of the goddess Athena, plans to get revenge on those who have plagued his wife and son during his absence. Book 5
- [The Final Battle](#) Odysseus returns home to Ithaca to find it overrun by suitors who want to marry his wife, so he, Athena, and Telemachus come up with a plan to drive them out. Book 6

The Fire Thief Trilogy by Terry Deary

- [The Fire Thief](#) An orphan thief tells the story of how his friend Prometheus took up the challenge from Zeus to find a human hero anywhere in time in order to end his punishment for good. Book 1 (J DEA)
- [The Fire Thief Fights Back](#) When their clever ruse is exposed, Sam and his mother, swindlers who are selling "miracle" cures to the people of Eden City, find an unlikely ally in Zeus who, in return for rescuing them from an angry mob, needs their help in settling a score with the monsters of Greek mythology. Book 2 (J DEA)

NonFiction : Grades 6-12

[Myths of Ancient Greece](#) by Jen Green Myths of an ancient culture are presented on double-page spreads with text on one page and a color reproduction of a work of art on the facing page. A second spread offers information about an aspect of ancient culture related to the myth. (J 398.2 GRE)

[Greek Myths: gods, heroes, and monsters: their sources, stories and meaning](#) by Ellen Switzer Examines the sources and stories of Greek mythology, recounting the tales of gods, heroes, lovers, and warriors. (J 292.13 SWI)

[Mythology](#) by Edith Hamilton A collection of Greek and Roman myths arranged in sections on the gods and early heroes, love and adventure stories, the Trojan war, and a brief section on Norse mythology. (ADU 292 HAM)

[The World of the Ancient Greeks](#) by John Camp Surveys the culture and history of ancient Greece, covering such topics as the first Greeks, classical Athens, Greek art and architecture, and Greek myths and legends. (A 938 CAM)

[The Encyclopedia of Mythology](#) by Eric Flaum Provides information on the many figures in Greek and Roman mythology. (A 292.13 FLA)

Fiction : Grades 6-12

Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series by Rick Riordan Suggested level: grades 5-9

- [The Lightning Thief](#) Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson learns he is a demigod, the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea. His mother sends him to a summer camp for demigods where he and his new friends set out on a quest to prevent a war between the gods. Book (J RIO)
- [Sea of Monsters](#) Demi-god Percy Jackson and his friends must journey into the Sea of Monsters to save their camp. But first Percy will discover a secret that makes him wonder whether being claimed as Poseidon's son is an honor or a cruel joke. Book 2
- [The Titan's Curse](#) The disappearance of the goddess Artemis while out hunting a rare, ancient monster, prompts a group of her followers to join Percy and his friends in an attempt to find and rescue her before the winter solstice, when her influence is needed to sway the Olympian Council regarding the war with the Titans. Book 3
- [The Battle of the Labyrinth](#) When demonic cheerleaders invade his high school, Percy Jackson hurries to Camp Half Blood, from whence he and his demigod friends set out on a quest through the Labyrinth, while the war between the Olympians and the evil Titan lord Kronos draws near. Book 4

- [The Last Olympian](#) While the Olympians struggle to contain the rampaging monster Typhon, Kronos begins his advance on New York City, where Mount Olympus stands virtually unguarded. Now it's up to Percy Jackson and an army of young demigods to stop the Lord of Time. Book 5

[Oh My Gods](#) by Tera Lynn Childs When her mother suddenly decides to marry a near-stranger, Phoebe, whose passion is running, soon finds herself living on a remote Greek island, completing her senior year at an ancient high school where the students and teachers are all descended from gods or goddesses. (YA CHI)

[The Great God Pan](#) by Donna Jo Napoli A retelling of the Greek myths about Pan, both goat and god, whose reed flute frolicking leads him to a meeting with Iphigenia, a human raised as the daughter of King Agamemnon and Queen Clytemnestra. (YA NAP)

[Quiver](#) by Stephanie Spinner When her father commands that she produce an heir, the huntress Atalanta gives her suitors a seemingly impossible task in order to uphold her pledge of chastity, as the gods of ancient Greece look on. (In Evergreen)

[Gateway to the Gods](#) by K.A. Applegate When April and her friends find themselves on Mount Olympus fighting with Zeus against an alien army, they must use their survival skills and real-world knowledge to stay alive.

[Psyche in a Dress](#) by Francesca Lia Block A young woman, Psyche, searches for her lost love and questions her true self in a modern retelling of Greek myths. Suggested

Teacher Resources

[PBS Teachers](#)

PBS.org can be a wealth of information and lesson plans for teachers and parents. For example: Do you want to study Greek Drama? PBS already has a lesson plan written for ages 6-8 or 9-12 that covers Oedipus the King, or if mathematics is what you want to discover, mix Pythagorean's Theorem with history. All of PBS's lesson plans are age specific and curriculum specific. Check out my search results page on PBS Teachers for Greece at this link.

[MrDonn.org--Ancient Greek and Roman Gods](#)

This site was created by a teacher and contains stories and information on the different Greek gods and other creatures; as well as, teacher and parent resources for lesson plans on Ancient Greece. The site also contains fun games and a family tree. If you are creating your own project for school, Mr. Donn has provided his clipart free for you to use. Just click on the name of the character you want to know more about.

ActivityVillage.co.uk

Activity Village is a site full of activities and projects that are free for librarians, teachers or personal use. You can find crafts, word searches, coloring pages and more that are theme specific. There are also links to other sites that include more ideas, free clipart and Greek myths that are kid appropriate.

FanFiction

Have you ever heard of FanFiction? Well if you have not, it is where fans of a certain book or series of books try their hand at writing stories to go along with the original story. Take all the information that you have gained so far about Percy Jackson and the Greek gods and see if you can write some FanFiction as well.

You can go to the Scholastic webpage and join a cast of FanFiction writers in which each person adds to the story or you can visit FanFiction.net and create your very own story by yourself. Try to stay true to the characters in how they react to certain things or how they talk. Good Luck! Make sure that you have your parents permission to do this if needed.

[Costume Party!](#)

Did you know that The Lightning Thief is going to be made into a movie in 2010 or that the last book of the Percy Jackson series, The Last Olympian, is out? What better way to celebrate this or just have fun with friends than to have a Percy Jackson costume party. Everyone can dress like the Greek gods or your favorite Percy Jackson character. You can play games like capture the flag, and chariot racing (have one person walk on their hands while the other person holds their feet and walks behind them. Whoever gets across the finish line first wins). Talk about your favorite parts of the books while drinking Nectar and eating Ambrosia (Milk shakes and Jello). You could even serve all blue food if you wanted to just like Percy's mom. You could also make this just a Greek Mythology Party if you do not want to theme the party with the book.

Check out this History for Kids site to learn about how to make your own Greek costume and easy Greek food you can make:

Flash Cards and Memory Game

Need to learn about the Greek gods or just want to create your own game? Find pictures of the Greek gods by either searching the Percy Jackson official site:

<http://www.percyjacksonbooks.com/> or GoogleImages. Once you find the images you like, you can make either flash cards or a memory game.

Flash Cards

You will need:

- glue
- index cards
- scissors
- markers
- a computer and attached printer
- the Internet

Cut out one picture of the Greek god, hero or creature of your choice that you printed off of the Internet. Glue that picture face up on the blank side of the index card. Underneath the picture write the name of the god, hero or creature. Flip the index card over to the side that has the lines. On the lines, write all the information you will need to know about the picture on the other side on the card. For example: how they were born, who their parents are, what their symbol is (if they have one), and what they do. Do not put the name on this side of the card. The goal is to read the information you wrote on the lined side of the index card and know who's picture is on the other side of the card without looking.

Memory Game

You will need:

- Glue
- index cards
- scissors
- markers (optional)
- a computer and attached printer
- the Internet

Print two copies of each Greek god, hero or creature that you want in your game from the Internet. Cut out the pictures that you found and glue them face up on the index card. You can write the name of the god, hero or creature if you want. Decorate the cards in any manor that you want but remember if they do not look the same people playing the game could cheat. Once your cards are ready to go, mix them up and lay them all face down. A turn consists of turning two cards over if they match you have made a pair and get to remove the cards, if they do not match turn them back over and it is the next persons turn. See if you can get the most matches.

Websites

Databases

A database is a collection of related electronic records in a standardized format, searchable in a variety of ways, such as title, author, subject, and keyword. Common examples of databases are the library catalog and citation indexes. The library subscribes to a variety of websites and also provides access to a state run database known as Inspire. Through each database you can access journal and magazine articles from a variety of sources.

[Inspire](#)

[Student Research Center](#)

Websites

When searching for information on the Internet, you need to find out where the information is coming from. Anyone can create a website so make sure that the information is referenced or is provided by an educated source. An educated source can be from a university/school, a teacher or usually a site that ends in .edu or .org. Some .com sites have good information just make sure that the person that created the website is qualified. If you are not sure, look for their contact information at the bottom of the website.

Encyclopedia Mythica (<http://www.pantheon.org/>) Encyclopedia Mythica is an online encyclopedia that provides information on different mythology around the world including Greek Mythology. This encyclopedia can be accessed on any computer that has the Internet. You can put your keywords in the search box at the top right hand corner, or since Greek Mythology is a popular search, you click on the links to the Greek Mythology pages in the left top corner under the title Most Popular Areas.

Greek Mythology (<http://www.mythweb.com/index.html>) This site is known as Mythweb. It has information on the Greek gods and heroes, an area that explains how Greek Mythology has influenced us today and an encyclopedia that you can search to learn more about Greek Mythology. This site has been referenced with good sources and has an area for teachers.

Winged Sandals (<http://www.wingedsandals.com/>) This is a site in which you can follow Hermes while he tells you all about the Greek gods. In this site you can read interactive stories and play games. There is even a dictionary of Ancient Greek Mythology for any other questions you may have that Hermes does not answer. The site is well referenced and supported by the University of Melbourne.

Classical Mythology (<http://www.windows.ucar.edu/tour/link=/mythology/myths.html>) This site contains a table that lists Greek gods, heroes and creatures along with their Roman counterparts. This site gives the reader the option of receiving their information at a beginner, intermediate or advanced level. This site is supported by the University of Michigan.

Greek Mythology Today (<http://www.mythman.com/>) This is a fun site that guides you through its pages with the Myth Man. You can read the myth of the day or visit the homework help page that gives information on the Greek gods, heroes, love stories, beasts and creatures and other characters. There is a pronunciation guide, a myth gallery, the greek alphabet, english dictionary and thesaurus and information on the Trojan War. You can even e-mail the Myth Man your questions (with the permission of your parents).

Greek Mythology (<http://library.thinkquest.org/J002356F/greek.htm>) This site has stories about the Greek gods and different myths about the heroes and wars fought during Ancient Greece. There is a table included that has English words, What the English words are in Greek and then a

pronunciation guide. There is also a map of Greece included that shows where different areas mentioned in the Greek Myths would be located. This site is supported by Library Think Quest.

MrDonn.org--Ancient Greek and Roman Gods (<http://greece.mrdonn.org/greekgods/index.html>) This site was created by a teacher and contains stories and information on the different Greek gods and other creatures. The site also contains fun games and a family tree. If you are creating your own project for school, Mr. Donn has provided his clipart free for you to use. Just click on the name of the character you want to know more about.

Greek-Gods.Info (<http://www.greek-gods.info/>) This site contains information on the first Greek gods, the Olympian gods, semi-gods and spirits, monsters and creatures, Greek heroes and Ancient Greece. Learn the meaning of Greek names, Greek religious rituals and the creation of the Greek gods in Greek mythology. You can also play a mythology quiz and a mythology puzzle that you can choose the level of difficulty.

Greek Mythology (<http://www.messagenet.com/myths/>) This site covers information about the Greek gods, heroes and the history of Ancient Greece. The site contains a dictionary of mythology and the ancient world. You can search the site for information you are looking for, different books that the websites author used and likes and links to other sites and information on Ancient Greece. There is also a fun quiz that you can play.

MythNET (<http://www.classicsunveiled.com/mythnet/html/index.html>) This site was created as a class project. It contains information on all the Greek gods: Olympian, Titan and Lesser gods. The site also gives information on notable characters, the creation of the Greek gods, heroes, and a genealogical chart. Different myths are also included like the Golden Fleece, the Trojan War and tales of love. The site also talks about the people that wrote the Greek myths. You can even play a Mythology game.

Theoi Greek Mythology (<http://www.theoi.com/>) This site contains information on the Greek gods, Titans, creatures from myths, giants, heroes, kings, nymphs and villains of the Greek myths. The site also includes a family tree an art gallery and references to mythological texts. Make sure that you read the last paragraph on the home page so you know how the site works.

Greek History and the Gods (<http://faculty.gvsu.edu/websterm/Greekhistory&gods.htm#link1>) This site provides a brief history of Ancient Greece, maps that show the area around Greece, and information on the Greek gods. The site also includes links to other information on Ancient Greece and the gods. This site was created to enhance a university class and includes a works cited page.

Greek Gods - History for Kids! (<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/greeks/religion/gods.htm>) History for Kids is an online site that gives brief overviews of times in history. This page talks about the Ancient Greek religion and the Greek gods. There are links at the bottom of the page to take you to stories or myths and books that go further into the subject. This site is certified kid safe.