

GREEK MYTHOLOGY



- Go to your public, school, and classroom libraries and check your home for any books about Greek mythology. Collect all the different materials you can on this topic and bring them to school. Read as many different Greek myths as possible. Consider asking an adult to read more complex versions so that you are able to listen for differences between various versions. Write a brief summary of the different versions of the myths on your bibliography cards to help you keep track during your study.
- Find out how the world began according to Greek mythology. How was the earth formed? How were the gods born? How were people created? Create a large mural to show your interpretation of the Greek version of the beginning of the world. Include all of the important characters and events in the story. Study other "story" murals to get some ideas for your mural. Plan your own mural on a small scale first.
- Find a piece of music that creates a mood that reflects the creation myth and your mural. Present your mural with the musical background as you story tell the myth.
- Make a poster showing the fourteen major members of Zeus' family. Organize your poster like a family tree showing the relationship between each family member. Include pictures of the gods and goddesses on your family tree, as well as a brief description of them.
- Choose a favorite mythological character (a goddess, god, creature or hero) and create a detailed clay sculpture. Carefully study illustrations of your character as well as written descriptions. Make a small sketch before



beginning. Greek statues are not painted so your details in the clay must show the complete image. Varnish your clay figure to preserve it.

Many of the Greek myths have "morals" or lessons in their stories. A moral is a bigger meaning that goes beyond the characters and events in the story. Read the following myths carefully:

- Helios and Phaethon
- Bellerophon and Pegasus
- King Midas
- Eros and Psyche
- Orpheus
- Daedalus and Icarus
- Arachne



Try to determine the moral of each. Create a series of small posters sharing the moral of each myth. Are the morals (or lessons) as important today as the Greeks felt they were in ancient times?

Chose one moral that you think is still important today and write a new modern myth to share the lesson. Illustrate your myth and share it with another class. Are they able to identify the moral of the story?

Create a model of the palace and labyrinth at Cnossus. Carefully read different versions of this famous myth as well as researching the archeological discovery in 1900 A.D. that might be the original maze. Include all of the important elements, especially the Minotaur.

Hercules or Heracles, is famous for his adventures called the "Twelve Labors of Hercules". Create an accordion book showing the twelve labors of Hercules. Your book should be almost a wordless picture book with a brief caption or title on each page.

