

Admit quick write up:

Please spend 3 to 5 minutes responding to this question:

- 1. What is a Myth? _____.**
- 2. Are you familiar with any mythology stories? _____.**
- 3. Where you learned about it? _____.**

Myth

According to Gregory Schrempp, Indiana University , "Myth" refers to colorful stories that tell about the origins of humans and the cosmos. Attitudes towards myth vary greatly. Some regard it as a source of spiritual growth, while others see only falsehood. Some see in myth the distinct character of particular cultures, while others see universal patterns. Some regard myth as "contemporary" and "alive", while others think of it as "ancient" and/or "dead."



Apollo

General Characteristics of Myths

- 1. A story that is or was considered a true explanation of the natural world (and how it came to be).**
- 2. Characters are often non-human – e.g. gods, goddesses, supernatural beings, first people.**
- 3. Plot may involve interplay between worlds (this world and previous or original world).**
- 4. Plot may involve interplay between worlds (this world and previous or original world).**
- 5. Depicts events that bend or break natural laws (reflective of connection to previous world).**
- 6. Cosmogonic/metaphysical explanation of universe (formative of worldview).**
- 7. Functional: “Charter for social action” – conveys how to live: assumptions, values, core meanings of individuals, families, communities.**

General Characteristics of Myths

8. Evokes the presence of Mystery, the Unknown (has a “sacred” tinge).
9. Reflective and formative of basic structures (dualities: light/dark, good/bad, being/nothingness, raw/cooked, etc.) that we must reconcile. Dualities often mediated by characters in myths.
10. Common theme: language helps order the world (cosmos); thus includes many lists, names, etc.
11. Metaphoric, narrative consideration/explanation of “ontology” (study of being). Myths seek to answer, “Why are we here?” “Who are we?” “What is our purpose?” etc. – life’s fundamental questions.
12. Sometimes: the narrative aspect of a significant ritual (core narrative of most important religious practices of society; fundamentally connected to belief system; sometimes the source of rituals)

The Olympians

Romans were greatly influenced by the Greek culture and their mythology, which contained a number of gods and goddesses. Therefore, the Romans adopted their stories and many of their gods renaming many of them with the exception of the god Apollo.

Greek	Roman	Role
Hera	Juno	Chief Goddess - marriage
Aphrodite	Venus	Goddess of beauty
Artemis	Diana	Goddess of hunting
Athena	Minerva	Goddess of wisdom
Demeter	Ceres	Goddess of the harvest, nature
Hestia	Vesta	Goddess of the hearth
Zeus	Jupiter	Chief God - sky and air
Apollon	Apollo	God of poetry, music, Sun
Ares	Mars	God of war
Hephaistos	Vulcan	God of blacksmiths
Hermes	Mercury	Messenger of the gods
Poseidon	Neptune	God of the sea

Minerva Roman Goddess of Wisdom



Minerva
Joseph Nollekens (English,
1737-1823)
English
England (Placed created)
1775
Marble





<http://www.getty.edu/art/collection/objects/1158/joseph-nollekens-minerva-english-1775/>

Statue of Aphrodite -Hygieia with Eros

(Getty Villa Gallery 106, Basilica)



Title: Statue of Aphrodite - Hygieia with Eros

Artist/Maker: Unknown

Culture: Roman

Place: Roman Empire (Place created)

Date: 200 - 250

Medium: Marble

Dimensions: 175 x 53 x 35 cm (68 7/8 x 20 7/8 x 13 3/4 in.)

Romans' Gods

What kind of gods did Romans worship?

At first, Romans believed in many different gods and goddesses. These gods were like people, but with magical powers. The Roman gods were part of a family. People told stories or *myths* about them. Each god or goddess looked after different people or things.

These are a few of the old Roman gods:

Saturn: once king of the gods, his place was taken by his son (Jupiter). Saturn was the god of seed-sowing. A merry Roman holiday or festival, the Saturnalia, was named after him.

Jupiter: god of the sky, he was the most important god.

Juno: Jupiter's wife, she looked after women.

Neptune: Jupiter's brother, he was the god of the sea.

Minerva: goddess of wisdom and women's work, such as weaving cloth.

Mars: god of war, though originally god of farming.

Venus: goddess of love, she was the lover of Mars.

Why did the Romans borrow new gods?

The Romans often borrowed new gods from people they conquered. They hoped these new gods would make them stronger. They borrowed gods from Egypt, for example, such as the goddess Isis. Roman soldiers worshipped Mithras, a god from Iran. A soldier going on a journey might ask Mercury (god of travel) for help, as well as Mithras the soldiers' god and he might also make a sacrifice to Neptune (the sea god) if he had to travel by ship!

Did Romans believe in life after death?

The Romans believed that a person's spirit went to the *underworld* after the person died. To get there, the dead needed to cross the River Styx. The dead person's family would leave a coin on the dead body, to pay the ferryman, whose name was Charon.

What went on a Roman temple?

People worshipped the gods in special buildings called temples. Inside the temple was a statue of a god. Priests looked after the temple. People went there to make sacrifices or offerings of food, flowers or money. Sometimes the priest killed an animal, such as a bull, as part of the sacrifice ceremony. Some Emperors said they were gods too, so everyone had to make a sacrifice to the Emperor.

Romans also had gods at home. They believed in household spirits that protected the family. They had miniature temples, or shrines, in their homes. The family would make offerings of food and drink to the household gods, and pray for good luck and protection.

Peer Discussion

(5 minutes)

1. What kind of relationship or similarities you are able to see between Roman's religious beliefs and our current society? Explain.
2. Roman Culture often borrowed new gods from cultures they conquered. Do believe there would be less wars in the world if our society adopted gods from other cultures? Why or why not?
3. Does your culture has Mythological God or Goddesses based on the constellation? If so, are these similar or different to the Roman's?

Homework Activity sheet questions

After you have selected your Roman God/Goddess answer the following questions:

1. Constellation name, title, Greek name, day of the week (if applicable).
2. Is a god/goddess associated with this constellation? Which one?
3. If so, why was this God/Goddess important to the romans?
4. Write a short paragraph explaining the role of this God/Goddess in the Roman culture. How was it worship? What where its attributes and characteristics.
5. Find at least 3 images of this constellation OR its God/Goddess where the Romans or Greeks have incorporated its image in visual art works (it could be architecture, decoration in artifacts, paintings, or sculpture.)
6. Can you find any art elements or principles of design on these works or art? Please explain in detail.

GREEK MYTHOLOGY VIDEOS



The Story of Medusa (4 min) TV-14

Once a beautiful priestess to Athena, the Greek Goddess of war, Medusa is transformed into a hideous monster after she falls victim to a crime.

<http://www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/greek-mythology/videos/the-story-of-medusa>

Roman Mythology

Romulus & Remus

Romulus and Remus were the direct descendants of Aeneas, whose fate-driven adventures to discover **Italy** are described by Virgil in **The Aeneid**. Romulus and Remus were related to Aeneas through their mother's father, Numitor. Numitor was a king of Alba Longa, an ancient city of Latium in central Italy, and father to Rhea Silvia. Before Romulus' and Remus' conception, Numitor's reign was usurped by Numitor's younger brother, Amulius. Amulius inherited control over Alba Longa's treasury with which he was able to dethrone Numitor and become king. Amulius, wishing to avoid any conflict of power, killed Numitor's male heirs and forced Rhea Silvia to become a **Vestal Virgin**. Vestal Virgins were priestesses of **Vesta**, patron goddess of the hearth; they were charged with keeping a sacred fire that was never to be extinguished and to take vows of chastity.

Source: http://www.ancient.eu/Romulus_and_Remus/



Google image search

GREEK AND ROMAN GODS



GREEK MYTHOLOGY

Greek mythology has inspired art and literature for centuries after people stopped believing in it.

There were literally hundreds of gods worshipped, for every aspect of life. The twelve most revered Olympians resided on Mount Olympus.

There are many other gods who serve similar functions. For example, Hades is the god of the underworld but Thanatos is the personification of death.



THEOGENY

OLYMPIC FAMILY TREE

Rebellion

Cronus usurped his father Uranus and ruled with the titans.
 Uranus and ruled with the titans.
 Fearing a prophecy, he ate his own children.

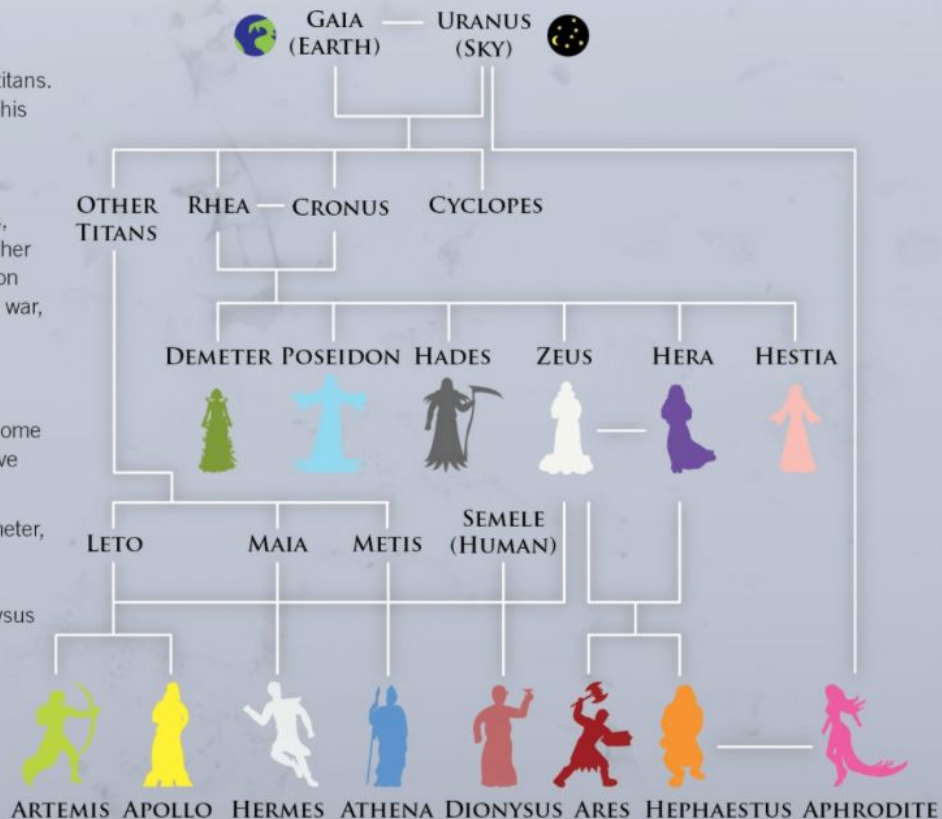
Titanomachy

Cronus' wife Rhea hid Zeus, who later challenged his father and the titans. With Poseidon and Hades, after a ten year war, Cronus was overthrown.

Olympus

Mt. Olympus became the home of the gods, where the twelve most powerful reigned:

Zeus, Poseidon, Hera, Demeter, Artemis, Apollo, Hermes, Athena, Ares, Hephaestus, Aphrodite, and either Dionysus or Hestia



APOLLO

God of the Sun

Lord of light, music, arts

Patron of:

Musicians

About:

Twins with Artemis, he is associated with the arts, knowledge, and the oracle of prophecy.



ARTEMIS/DIANA

Goddess of the Moon

Lady of the hunt, night, virginity

Patron of:

Hunters, young women

About:

Twin with Apollo, she is a sworn virgin and protects young women's virtue.



HEPHAESTUS/VULCAN

God of the Forge

Lord of fire, crafts

Patron of:

Craftsmen, cripples

About:

Crippled, he forges the weapons of the gods. Given Aphrodite by his mother, Hera, their relationship isn't successful.



ATHENA/MINERVA

Goddess of Wisdom

Lady of wisdom, handicrafts, warfare

Patron of:

Philosophers, Athens

About:

Springing from Zeus' head after he ate her mother, she is the patron of Athens and her wisdom rivals her fathers'.



HERMES/MERCURY

God of Messengers

Lord of messages, oratory, commerce

Patron of:

Messengers, merchants, thieves

About:

Messenger of the gods, he was always on the move and loved playing tricks on others.



DEMETER/CERES

Goddess of the Harvest

Lady of plants, growth

Patron of:

Gardeners, farmers

About:

Hades took her daughter Persephone as wife for part of the year, winter, during which Demeter refuses to produce food.



THE OLYMPIANS

ZEUS/JUPITER

God of the Sky

King of weather, judgment, gods

Patron of:

Rulers, judges

About:

Husband and brother to Hera, he was king of the gods after overthrowing his father Cronus.



HERA/JUNO

Goddess of Motherhood

Queen of gods, marriage

Patron of:

Marriages

About:

Zeus' wife, she constantly punishes his lovers for his infidelity, while she remained pure.



POSEIDON/NEPTUNE

God of the Sea

Lord of water, horses, earthquakes

Patron of:

Sailors, fishers

About:

Easily angered, he lost patronage of Athens to Athena, so he sent a monster to attack it.



HADES/PLUTO

God of the Underworld

Lord of dead, earth, treasures

Patron of:

The dying, miners

About:

Resides in the underworld, not on Mount Olympus. Isn't evil, but didn't let the dead escape justice.



ARES/MARS

God of War

Lord of warriors

Patron of:

Warriors, athletes, Sparta

Related to:

Worshipped for war, but sometimes considered too blood thirsty and extreme.



APHRODITE/VENUS

Goddess of Love

Lady of love, beauty, sex

Patron of:

Lovers

About:

Born from Uranus in the sea, she was given Hephaestus as husband, but cheats on him with Ares



DIONYSUS/BACCHUS

God of Wine

Lord of parties, wine

Patron of:

Partiers

About:

A popular god whose status as an Olympian is in question with Hestia. He loved festivities.



HESTIA/VESTA

Goddess of the Hearth

Lady of home, domesticity, family

Patron of:

Servants, mothers

About:

One of Cronus' daughters, her status as one of the 12 Olympians sometimes is replaced by Dionysus



GENDER ROLES

Representations

While many of the male gods represent forces of nature, many of the females represented feminine ideals like marriage, love, virginity, and domesticity.

Double standard

Males like Zeus cheated on their wives all the time, but few females other than Aphrodite ever cheated on their husbands, and many stayed virgins.

Heroes

Demigods, or heroes, like Heracles, were the children of a godly parent and a human. Some were tragic heroes, but many were exemplars of masculine ideals.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Greek

These gods were created by the Greeks and organized by storytellers like Hesiod and Homer. For many years they worshipped these gods.



Roman

When the Romans conquered the Greeks, they adopted their gods, gave them different names, and created some of their own.



Christian

When the Romans adopted Christianity, in order to help the transition, some of the old gods' functions were replaced by saints from Christian history.

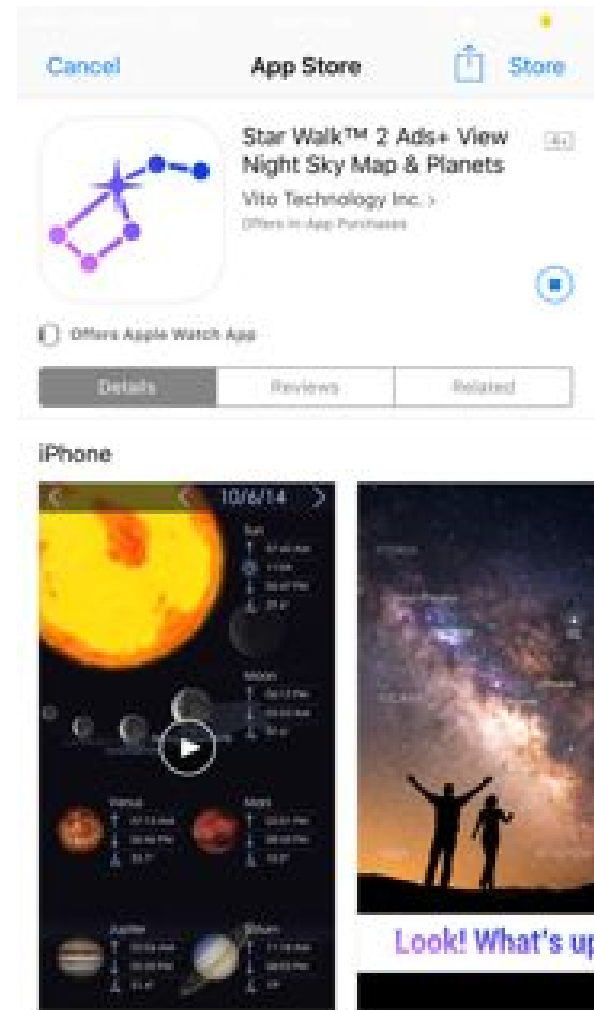
Example: Peter is the patron saint of fishermen.



Created by Matthew Barrett

What is next?

1. Select a partner
2. Using yours or your partner's cell phone, you will download the application "Star Walk 2 Free - Sky Map"
 - a. Go to the App Store
 - b. Search for "Star Walk 2" free version.
 - c. Download the application
 - d. As a group, we will go over its functions.



3. Play with the application and explore night sky and the constellations.

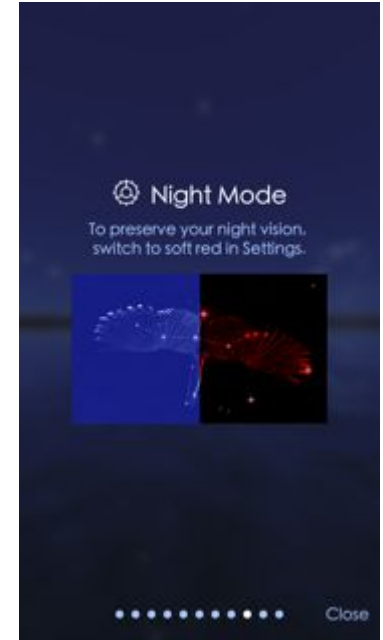
4. Find a constellation that interests you and take a screenshot of it.

5. Get this constellation approved by instructor.

6. Copy constellation onto a piece of paper.

7. Begin research on that constellation.

8. Answer each of the questions on the activity sheet.



9. Design your own constellation. Plot dots on illustration board as if it would be seen in the night sky.

10. Create an illustration of your constellation on a separate piece of illustration board or watercolor paper. You can use ink, watercolor, or colored pencils.





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2017