

**Westfield
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Roman & Greek Mythology

**Story Lab—
Week #2**
June 9, 2020

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Story Lab Schedule

- 06/02—Egyptian Mythology
- 06/09—Roman & Greek Mythology
- 06/16—Medieval Legends
- 06/23—Age of Enlightenment Fairy Tales
- 06/30—American Tall Tales
- 07/07—To Be Determined
- 07/14—TBD
- 07/21—TBD
- 07/28—TBD

WELCOME!

This year's Summer Reading Program theme is *Imagine Your Story*. But what does that mean? Last year we focused on space and science which is more about facts. This year we're concentrating on fantasy themes, including myths, fables, fairy tales, and legends which helps you use your imagination.

What is Story Lab? A laboratory is a place to gather and study evidence, then analyze what we've studied. In this virtual lab environment, we're going to gather evidence of stories throughout history and the world, then take what we've learned to help us write our own stories.

Do you know the difference between a myth and a legend? By the end of this series you will have learned about both.

WATCH

We can't fit the thousands of years of information about Ancient Greece and Rome into this document so we created a supplemental playlist on our YouTube channel called *SRP 2020: Story Lab Week #2—Roman & Greek Mythology*, which you can find here—

<https://www.youtube.com/user/WVPL46074/playlists>

***Please note that this playlist is housed on regular YouTube and parents are encouraged to monitor their child's activity in the event that any questions arise while watching.**

What's special about myths?

Myths are traditional stories, especially ones concerning the early history of a people or explaining some natural or social phenomenon, especially before science and typically involving supernatural beings or events. The main characters in myths are usually gods, demigods or supernatural humans!

The stories from Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome definitely fit this definition. They were so influential that the planets of our solar system are named after Roman gods! And the roots of many other English words come from Greek and Latin. Can you think of any examples?

Check out how ancient buildings have survived through time as well as see what they might have looked like when they were new. Learn how to put on a toga and how girls may have worn their hair. Don't forget to search "Greek" and "Roman" and "mythology" on [YouTube Kids](#) for more videos!

LEARN

The Romans worshiped thousands of gods. As they expanded their empire, they discovered new gods from the people they conquered. When they ran into a god (or goddess) they liked, they adopted him (or her). When they heard about the Greek gods, they adopted nearly all of them. The Romans gave their gods different names but the stories and characters do share some of the same traits.

They gave the Greek gods Roman names, and acted as if they had been Roman gods all along. But they did more than that. The ancient Romans changed some of the Greek myths to better reflect Roman beliefs. They changed some of the Greek gods' personalities to better reflect the Roman way of life. This did not happen overnight.

For example, the king of the gods in Greek Mythology was called Zeus. The king of the gods in Roman Mythology was called Jupiter. People think that they are the same god, and they were both the god of the sky and thunder, but the truth is that Jupiter was as different from Zeus as the ancient Romans were from the ancient Greeks.



Zeus

Hera

In Roman mythology, for example, Jupiter rarely, if ever, came down to earth. He ruled from the heavens above, and his word was final. The Greek God Zeus, on the other hand, was forever showing up on earth in disguise, and had a great time doing it.

Juno, the Queen of all the Roman Gods, was motherly. Her job was to watch over



Aphrodite

Hades

the women of Rome. When she wasn't doing that, she was busy with her own children and her own household. Hera, the Queen of all the Greek gods, was jealous and petty. When she wasn't keeping an eagle eye on Zeus, she was plotting against any god or mortal who had angered her.

The truth about myths is that they change with the storyteller, the civilization, the times, and the translation.

The Greek myths were so amazing to the ancient Roman storytellers and poets that they left quite a few of them very close to the way they found them, although they sometimes made changes to bring them closer to the Roman way of life.

The Greek creation myths start with Gaia (the earth) and Uranus (the sky). They had a few children including Rhea and Cronus, who had several including Zeus. Cronus was warned that he would be overthrown by one of his children so he ate them all. When Zeus was born, his mother Rhea gave Cronus a stone wrapped in a blanket



Athena

Apollo

and told him it was Zeus. When Zeus grew up, he forced his father to expel his brothers and sisters then put his father in prison. Zeus took over as King and assigned his brothers and sisters jobs. He gave Poseidon the sea and to Hades he gave the Underworld.

He named his sister Demeter the goddess of Agriculture. According to the stories, winter exists because Demeter's daughter Persephone lived in the Underworld with Hades for half of the year and it made her mother Demeter so sad that plants wouldn't grow during that time of year.



Artemis

Poseidon

Some gods and goddesses had more jobs and there were a lot more stories about them. Two of the busiest were Apollo and his twin sister Artemis, children of Zeus. Apollo was the god of archery, music and dance, truth and prophecy, healing and diseases, the Sun and light, poetry, and more. Artemis, was the goddess of child-birth and protector of young girls. She was also the goddess of the hunt, the wilderness, wild animals, and the Moon.

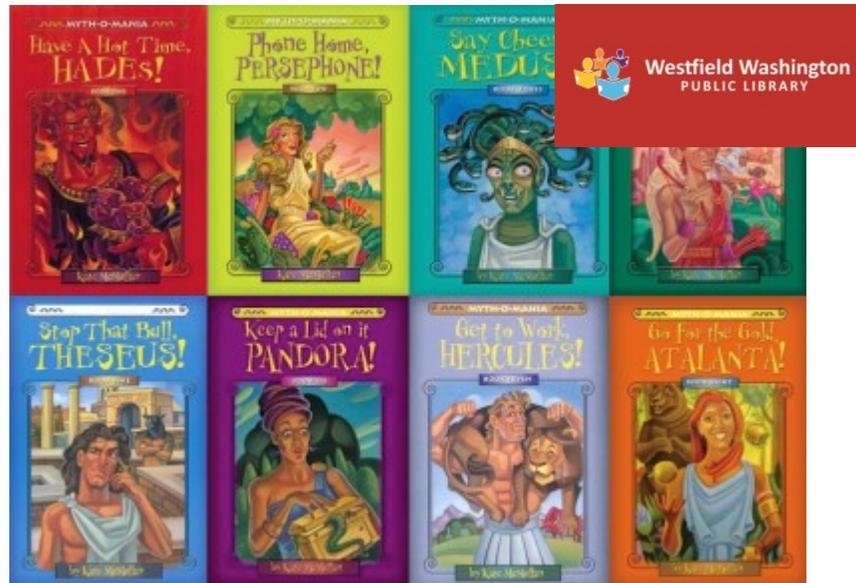
Aphrodite was the goddess of love and she was married to Hephaestus, the god of blacksmiths and metalworking.

Athena associated with wisdom, handicraft, and warfare. She's usually shown in art wearing a helmet and holding a spear. Her major symbols include owls and olive trees. She is a daughter of Zeus but according to her origin story, Athena leaped from Zeus's head, fully grown and armed!

READ

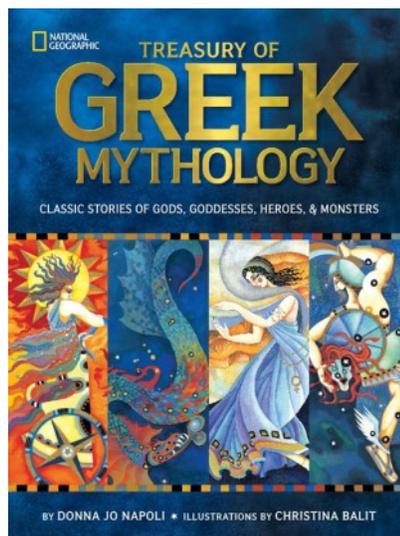
Early Chapter Fiction Books

- ◆ **Ranger in Time: Danger in Ancient Rome** by Kate Messner
 - ◆ Physical book—[Evergreen](#)
 - ◆ eBook—[Libby](#)
- ◆ **A Lottie Lipton Adventure: the Eagle of Rome** by Dan Metcalf
 - ◆ Physical book—[Evergreen](#)
 - ◆ eBook—[Hoopla](#)
- ◆ **You Choose: Ancient Greece** by William Caper
 - ◆ Physical book—[Evergreen](#)
- ◆ **You Choose: Ancient Rome** by Rachael Hanel
 - ◆ Physical book—[Evergreen](#)
- ◆ **Gross Gods Series (4 books)**
 - ◆ Physical Books—[Evergreen](#)
 - ◆ eBooks—[Libby](#)



Fiction Books

- ◆ **Mira's Diary: Home Sweet Rome** by Marissa Moss
 - ◆ Physical book—[Evergreen](#)
 - ◆ eBook—[Hoopla](#)
- ◆ **Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series (5+ books)** by Rick Riordan
 - ◆ Physical books—[Evergreen](#)
 - ◆ eBooks—[Hoopla](#)
 - ◆ eBooks & audiobooks—[Libby](#)
- ◆ **Myth-o-Mania Series (10 books)** by Kate McMullan
 - ◆ Physical books—[Evergreen](#)
 - ◆ eBooks—[Libby](#)
- ◆ **Illustrated Classics Junior: The Magic Pitcher** by Nathaniel Hawthorne
 - ◆ eBook—[Hoopla](#)

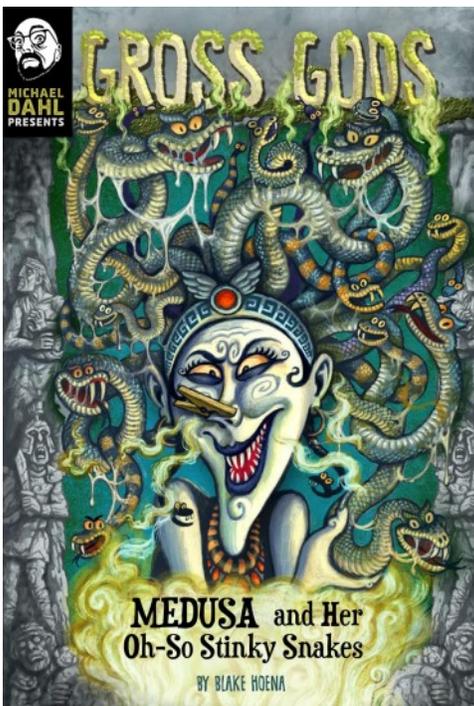


Don't forget to sign up for the
Summer Reading Program!
wwpl.beanstack.org

Non-Fiction Books

Pro Tip: non-fiction books about Greek and Roman Mythology are found under the number 292.13. Books about Ancient Rome are under 937 and books about Ancient Greece are under 938!

- ◆ **Treasury of Greek Mythology** by Donna Jo Napoli
 - ◆ Physical book—[Evergreen](#)
 - ◆ audiobook—[Libby](#)
- ◆ **Greek Gods Series (13 books)** by Teri Temple and Robert Squier
 - ◆ Physical books—[Evergreen](#)
 - ◆ eBooks—[Hoopla](#)
- ◆ **Roman Gods Series (13 books)** by Teri Temple, Emily Temple, and Eric Young
 - ◆ Physical book—[Evergreen](#)
 - ◆ eBook—[Hoopla](#)



Solve

Draw a line from the center column to the correct Greek god on the left and the matching Roman god on the right. Find clues through the rest of this document!

Greek		Roman
Artemis	The King of the Gods	Juno
Hepaestus	The Queen of the Gods	Vesta
Apollo	God of the Sea	Jupiter
Hera	God of the Underworld	Mercury
Zeus	Goddess of Wisdom	Diana
Athena	God of Love	Vulcan
Ares	Goddess of Love	Neptune
Hermes	Goddess of the Hunt	Ceres
Poseidon	Goddess of the Harvest	Pluto
Demeter	Goddess of the Hearth	Mars
Aphrodite	God of War	Cupid
Hades	God of the Sun	Minerva
Hestia	God of Forge	Apollo
Eros	God of Messengers	Venus

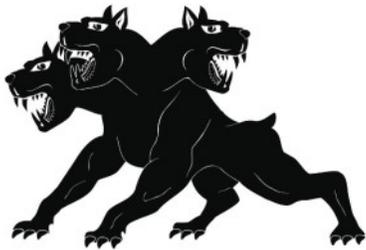
REFERENCES

- ◇ [The Beautiful Stories of Life](#) by Cynthia Rylant & Carson Ellis
- ◇ [Monsters & Creatures of Greek Mythology](#) via Ducksters.com
- ◇ [DK Illustrated Dictionary of Mythology](#) by Phillip Wilkinson
- ◇ [Mythlopedia: All In the Family](#) by Steven Otfinoski
- ◇ [Five Greek Mythology Videos for Kids](#) via theoi.com
- ◇ [Mythology: the Gods, Heroes, and Monsters of Ancient Greece](#) by Hestia Evans
- ◇ [Goddesses, Heroes, and Shamans: the young people's guide](#)
- ◇ [Roman Myths](#) by Eric Braun
- ◇ [Greek and Roman Mythology](#) by Don Nardo
- ◇ [Roman Myths](#) by David West and Ross Watton
- ◇ [Greek Myths for Kids](#) via MrDonn.org
- ◇ [Roman Myths for Kids](#) via MrDonn.org
- ◇ [List of Greek Mythical Creatures](#) via Wikipedia.com
- ◇ [Who Named the Planets](#) via History.com
- ◇ [Magical Creatures](#) by Lynn Curlee

LEARN

While the Ancient Egyptians had gods with some animal features, the Greeks and Romans had a whole menagerie of magical creatures. They didn't just exist for the sake of existing. They all had a role or a job in the myths. Some of them have been used in more contemporary stories. Do you recognize any of them?

For example, The **Cerberus** was a giant three-headed dog that guarded the gates of the Underworld. You may also have noticed him guarding the door to the Sorcerer's Stone in the Harry Potter series.



Another example from the Harry Potter series is the **Basilisk**. First written about by the Ancient Roman author, Pliny the Elder, his basilisk's weakness was the smell of a weasel.

Another great example from the Greek myths is **Pegasus**, a horse with wings that helped the hero Bellerophon kill the **Chimera**, a giant fire-breathing monster with multiple heads that was a combination of many animals including a goat, a lion, and a snake!



Of course, some creatures were part human and part animal. The Greek **Satyrs** were a male nature spirit with the ears and tail of a horse. The Romans **Fauns** were similar but they had the lower body of a goat and the upper body of a man as well as goat horns on their heads. Mr. Tumnus in The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe is a faun.

If you had to make a magical creature, what would it look like? Would it be half-human or all animal? Would it fly? If so, don't forget to give it wings! Does your magical creature have any super powers? What are they? Now you just have to give it a cool name!



COOK

In the ancient Greek myths, **ambrosia** (in Ancient Greek: ἀμβροσία), is the food or drink of the Greek gods and is often depicted as conferring longevity or immortality upon whoever consumed it.

Ingredients List

- 15 oz can mandarin oranges
- 15 oz can peach slices, drained
- 8 oz can pineapple tidbits
- 5 oz jar maraschino cherries, stems removed
- ¾ cup fresh green grapes, halved
- ¾ cup sweetened coconut flakes
- ¾ cup mini marshmallows
- ½ cup chopped pecans, optional
- ¼ cup diced crystallized, candied ginger
- 4 oz sour cream
- 4 oz cool whip
- pinch of salt



How To Make Ambrosia

- I. Set a large colander in the sink. Pour the canned mandarin oranges, peaches, pineapple tidbits, and cherries into the colander.
- II. Once the fruit is well drained, chop each peach slice into 3-4 pieces. Remove all cherry stems, then cut the cherries in half.
- III. Cut the green grapes in half. Chop the pecans and dice the crystallized ginger pieces.
- IV. Next, set out a large salad bowl. Pour the drained, chopped fruit into the bowl. Then add the grapes, coconut, marshmallows, pecans, crystallized ginger, sour cream, and Cool Whip. Add a good pinch of salt and gently mix the salad until everything is well incorporated.
- V. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve. Can be made up to 7 days in advance.



For a video tutorial, visit our YouTube Channel and check out the [SRP 2020: Story Lab Week #2 playlist!](#)

DRAW

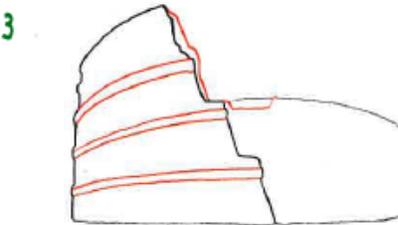
Amphitheaters were first built in ancient Rome. Try drawing one of the most famous examples of Roman architecture, the Colosseum. It was completed in 80 A.D. and was big enough to seat 65,000 people. Here they staged battle reenactments and fights between gladiators and sometimes even wild animals!



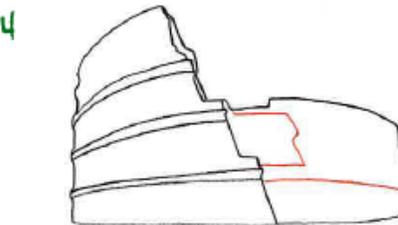
1 Begin by drawing the two sections of the building. Make these two shapes using curved, diagonal, horizontal, and vertical lines.



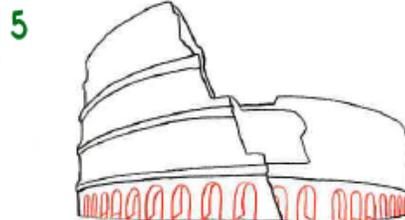
2 Outline the shape on the left. On the left side, draw four bumps. Make the diagonal line in the middle jagged, almost like stairs.



3 Erase extra lines. Draw three curved double lines from the left side of the building to the right. Draw three small lines in the middle, as shown. Add a line to show the thick wall.



4 Erase the extra line. Draw a long curving line on the right section of the building. Draw another shape above it, as shown.



5 Next draw many arches on the first level. Make the arches wider toward the building's center. Draw another curving line inside of each arch, to show its thick walls.



6 Add arches to the upper levels. Draw two small windows on the top level.



7 Add tiny wavy lines to the top left edge of the building. Draw arches and small windows on the right side of the building.



8 Shade your drawing. Notice that some of the top arches have light coming through and the bottom arches show darker shadows.

MAKE

Mosaic is a type of art that uses a lot of smaller pieces to make a pattern or an image. They were very popular in Ancient Greece and Rome as decoration for walls and floors. They even used this type of art to make signs like the one to the left that says, “Beware of dog!”

They were traditionally made from materials such as glass, ceramic, stones. Modern mosaics can also be made from a variety of material including shells, beads, charms, chains, gears, coins, and pieces of costume jewelry.

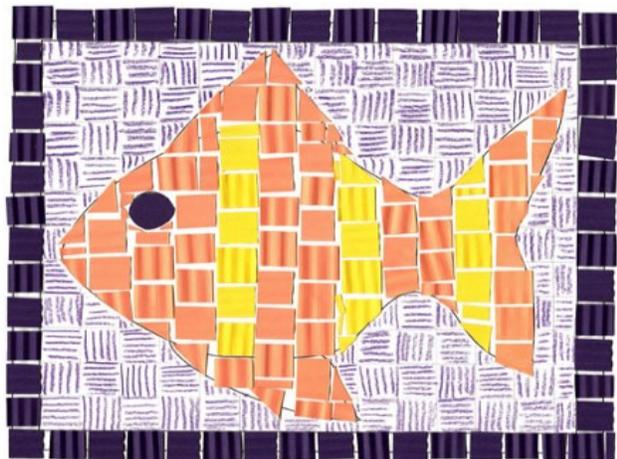
You can try making your own mosaic art by just using small squares of paper. You can use anything from colored construction paper to junk mail that your parents were going to throw away. The size of your squares will depend on how intricate you want your design to be.



You can use fairly large squares of paper and get a result like the goldfish below or you can use a lot of smaller squares and get a more detailed result like the goldfish on the right.

You don't have to put all of the squares in straight lines. Trim the edges of some squares to create curves in your design. You can lay the squares out then glue everything down once you're sure of the design or you can glue them as you go. Try making your main image first then filling in the background afterwards.

At the end, add a fancy patterned border!





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LAUGH

Q: What game did the Greek Gods play?

A: Hydra and go seek

Q: What did the Ancient Greeks wear on their feet?

A: Tennis Zeus

Q: How do Greek women get ready for a toga party?

A: With a Hera appointment

Q: What did Poseidon say to the sea monster?

A: What's Kraken?

Q: Who did Artemis invite to her birthday party?

A: Her nearest and deer-est friends

Q: What did Percy Jackson say to the really dull substitute teacher?

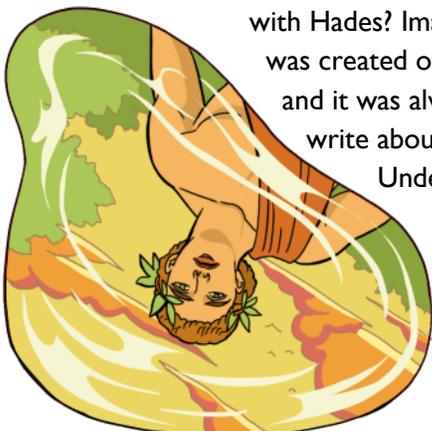
A: Is your name Hades because
You're boring me to death!

WRITE

Making great characters is a good place to start when writing. Now that you've explored Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome, think about how you could include elements of their myths and culture into a story of your own. Would your characters be humans, gods, or demi-gods? Would there also be magical creatures with super powers and multiple heads?

You can also try picking an existing character and writing a new story for them. This is actually a really popular thing to do and a whole genre of writing exists around it called fan-fiction. Would we not have winter if Persephone hadn't gone to the Underworld with Hades? Imagine a new story for how Winter was created or if Persephone hadn't come back and it was always winter. Maybe you could write about how you save her from the Underworld so we never have winter!

Wherever you start, remember to use your imagination!



Next Week

Be on the look out for next week's Story Lab edition which will be available on Tuesday, June 16, 2020.

We'll be focusing on Medieval Legends!

