

Name _____

Date _____



Greek Mythology

AN ANCIENT GREEK:

We're the ancient Greeks, dominating on the seas
And the archipelago, do you know what we believe?
We're polytheistic, many gods and deities,
This one, that one and more, indeed.
You wear Nikes on your feet,
Nike, to me, is the goddess of victory.
For things we don't understand, what do we do?
We come up with a story for how it could be true.
Like, whoa, you see the lightning, what's that?
That must be Zeus throwing bolts off his back.
Our gods are a part of everyday life,
And if you don't give them their due, they won't be nice.
I sacrifice a goat to honor Poseidon,
When a trip in a ship's on my horizon.
Let's climb Mount Olympus, and see what we find,
That's the spot where the big Greek gods reside.

ZEUS:

I'm Zeus, the god king, built like a running back,
Throwing lightning... hear the thunderclap?
People from the future, don't get confused,
Let me run through my FAQs.
No, I'm not perfect, but yes, I am a god,
In fact, all the gods act petty and odd.
I married my sister, that's Hera,
The queen goddess, we had two kids together.

I've also had kids in other relationships,
I spend my time tossing bolts, not raising kids.
Let me introduce my brothers up next,
Poseidon—what a surprise, dripping wet.
Poseidon, who is he? He's the god of the sea,
Rocks a trident, never smiles, always moody.
See, I rule the sky, Poseidon, the seas,
And the underworld is ruled by my brother Hades.
He's got a pet dog that has three heads,
He stays down below mostly, ruling the dead.
My sister Demeter is the goddess of crops,
So if you like wheat, I think you'll like her a lot.
And Hestia is the goddess of the home,
When you're curled up by the fire, you're in Hestia's zone.
When it comes to siblings, that's it,
I'll pass the mic to one of my kids.

ATHENA:

OK, thanks, Dad! Next generation is up,
I'm Athena, got the spear, yep, smart and I'm tough.
I'm the goddess of the wisdom and the war. Nah, I don't bluff.
Meet my sis Artemis, goddess of the hunt.
I've seen her hunting in the forest in the moonlight,
Shooting arrows with a bow, she knows how to use it right.
Her twin brother Apollo, god of the sun,
He's shiny, golden and really handsome.
And Ares is another, god of war,
Strong, violent, a little immature.
He loves Aphrodite, the goddess of love
And beauty, but she's already linked up
With Hephaestus, the god of fire
And metalworking, Hephaestus is live.

He makes weapons galore when he steps in the door,
Forging the swords we use to settle the score.
Don't sleep on Hermes, the messenger god,
His winged helmet and sandals help him travel far.
And fast, the last is Dionysus,
God of wine and revelry, his party's the nicest.
There are plenty more gods for the Greeks,
But we're Olympian gods, so unique.
You might know us by our Roman names,
Like the planets, but we're still mostly the same.