

# BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO GREEK MYTHOLOGY

Primary Sources Hub – Mythoi.org

## INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS GREEK MYTHOLOGY?

Greek mythology is a collection of myths from ancient Greece, explaining the natural world, human behavior, and the origins of gods, heroes, and monsters. These stories have influenced literature, art, philosophy, and culture for thousands of years. This guide is designed for beginners seeking a structured introduction.



## OLYMPIAN GODS

The 12 major gods of Mount Olympus:

God / Goddess	Domain / Role	Key Notes
<a href="#">Zeus</a>	King of the gods, sky, thunder	Supreme ruler of Olympus
<a href="#">Hera</a>	Marriage, family	Zeus' wife, queen of gods
<a href="#">Athena</a>	Wisdom, strategy, crafts	Patron of Athens
<a href="#">Apollo</a>	Sun, music, prophecy	Twin of Artemis
<a href="#">Artemis</a>	Hunt, moon, wilderness	Protector of young women
<a href="#">Ares</a>	War	Often contrasted with Athena's strategy
<a href="#">Aphrodite</a>	Love, beauty	Born from sea foam
<a href="#">Hephaestus</a>	Fire, craftsmanship	Blacksmith of the gods
<a href="#">Hermes</a>	Messenger, commerce	Guide of souls to Hades
<a href="#">Demeter</a>	Agriculture	Mother of Persephone
<a href="#">Dionysus</a>	Wine, festivity	God of theatre and ecstasy
<a href="#">Hestia</a>	Hearth, home	Goddess of domestic life



## HEROES AND MONSTERS

- [Famous Heroes:](#)
- [Heracles – Known for the Twelve Labors](#)
- [Perseus – Slayer of Medusa](#)
- [Theseus – Defeated the Minotaur](#)
- [Odysseus – The clever hero of the Odyssey](#)



## RESOURCES FOR BEGINNERS

- [Primary Sources Hub – Mythoi.org:](#)
- [Perseus Digital Library](#)
- [Internet Archive](#)



## KEY MYTHS FOR EVERY BEGINNER

- [Creation Myth – Chaos, Gaia, Uranus, Titans](#)
- [The Trojan War – Helen of Troy, Achilles, Hector](#)
- [Labors of Heracles – Courage, strength, redemption](#)
- [Odyssey of Odysseus – Adventure, cunning, trials](#)



## TIPS FOR USING THIS GUIDE

- Begin with Olympian gods, then heroes and monsters
- Use visual aids like charts, timelines, and infographics
- Cross-reference myths with primary sources
- Share this guide with friends or students using the PDF