

Greek Mythology Assignment: Pandora's Box

Individual Tasks (10-15 minutes):

- 1. Read the myth. Do not write on the myth.**
- 2. Write down two questions** about the myth.
- List the **main characters** in the myth.
- Next to the characters name, write down who they are and what they did.
- List the **major events** that took place in the myth.

With a partner (30 minutes): Spend 3-5 minutes discussing the myth and the questions you wrote. Then, answer the following questions:

6. Why did Zeus give the box to Pandora?
7. What happened when the box was opened?
8. How did the world change after the box opened?
9. What is the purpose of this myth? What is this myth trying to explain?
10. Why do you think people believed this myth?
11. Rewrite the myth in your own words.
12. Draw a cartoon that shows the series of events as they happened in the myth. Make sure to use words and captions to explain your drawings.
13. Create your own myth to explain **one** of the following:
 - a. Why the sun comes up and goes down every day.
 - b. Why we have thunder and lightning.
 - c. How people were created / evolved / came to exist.

Greek Mythology Assignment: Demeter & Persephone

Individual Tasks (10-15 minutes):

- 1. Read the myth. Do not write on the myth.**
- 2. Write down two questions** about the myth.
- List the **main characters** in the myth.
- Next to the characters name, write down who they are and what they did.
- List the **major events** that took place in the myth.

With a partner (30 minutes): Spend 3-5 minutes discussing the myth and the questions you wrote. Then, answer the following questions:

1. Who was Demeter and what was her job?
2. Who was Persephone?
3. What happened to Persephone?
4. How did the kidnapping of Persephone affect people on earth?
5. What was the deal that got Persephone out the underworld?
6. What is the purpose of this myth? What is this myth trying to explain?
7. Why do you think people believed this myth?
8. Rewrite the myth in your own words.
9. Draw a cartoon that shows the series of events as they happened in the myth. Make sure to use words and captions to explain your drawings.
10. Create your own myth to explain **one** of the following:
 - a. Why the sun comes up and goes down every day.
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Green Myth: Demeter & Persephone

Zeus, the king of all the gods, had three sisters. Hera, his wife and sister, was the goddess of marriage and the queen of all the gods.

Zeus's third sister, Demeter, was in charge of the harvest. All the gods jobs were important. Demeter's job was *very* important. If she was upset, the crops could die. Everyone, gods and mortals, worked hard to keep Demeter happy. What made her happy was enjoying the company of her daughter, Persephone.

As the story goes

Persephone had grown into a beautiful young woman, with a smile for everyone. One day, while picking flowers in the fields, Hades, her uncle, the god of the underworld, noticed her. Hades was normally a gloomy fellow. But Persephone's beauty had dazzled him. He fell in love instantly. Quickly, before anyone could interfere, he kidnapped Persephone and hurled his chariot down into the darkest depths of the underworld, taking Persephone with him.

Demeter was angry and became depressed. With her daughter gone, Demeter was in a very bad mood and did not allow any crops to grow on earth.

Locked in a room in the Hall of Hades, Persephone cried and cried. She refused to speak to Hades. And she *refused* to eat. Legend said if you ate anything in Hades, you could never leave. She did not know if the legend was true, but she did not want to risk it in case someone came to rescue her.

Nearly a week went by. Finally, unable to bear her hunger, Persephone ate six pomegranate seeds. It seemed her fate was sealed. She would have to live in the Underworld forever.

Meanwhile, back on earth, Zeus was worried about the crops. The people would die if the crops failed. If that happened, who would worship Zeus? He had to do something. Zeus did what he often did. He sent Hermes, his youngest son, the messenger, to crack a deal, this time with Hades.

Even as a baby, Hermes was great at making deals. Everyone knew that. But this deal might be the challenge of his life. His uncle Hades, king of the underworld, was really in love. This was no passing fancy.

When Hermes heard that Persephone had eaten six pomegranate seeds, he had to think quickly. The deal he made with Hades was that if Persephone would marry Hades, she would live as queen of the underworld for six months out of the year. However, each spring, Persephone would return and live on earth for the other six months of the year. Hades agreed. Zeus agreed. Persephone agreed. And finally, Demeter agreed.

Each spring, Demeter makes sure all the flowers bloom in welcome when her daughter, Queen of the Underworld, returns to her. Each fall, when Persephone returns to Hades, Demeter cries, and lets all the crops die until spring, when the cycle starts again.

Greek Myth: Pandora's Box

As the Story goes...

Zeus ordered Hephaestus (Aphrodite's husband) to make him a daughter. It was the first woman made out of clay. Hephaestus made a beautiful woman and named her Pandora.

Zeus sent his new daughter, Pandora, down to earth so that she could marry Epimetheus, who was a gentle but lonely man. Zeus was not being kind. He was getting even. Epimetheus and Prometheus were brothers. Zeus was mad at one of the brothers, Prometheus, for giving people fire without asking Zeus first.

Zeus was furious. Zeus had not planned to reward people with fire for a very long time yet. Zeus did not even get the credit for the invention of fire. That went to Prometheus. If the brothers wanted credit for new inventions, Zeus would be glad to help them get the credit they *deserved*.

Zeus gave Pandora a little box with a big heavy lock on it. He made her promise never to open the box. He gave the key to Pandora's husband and told him to never open the box. Zeus was sure that Epimetheus' curiosity would get the better of him, and that either Epimetheus or his brother would open the box.

Pandora was very curious. She wanted to see what was inside the box, but Epimetheus said no. Better not. "You know your father," Epimetheus sighed, referring to Zeus. "He's a tricky one."

One day, when Epimetheus lay sleeping, Pandora stole the key and opened the box.

Out flew every kind of disease and sickness, hate and envy, and all the bad things that people had never experienced before. Pandora slammed the lid closed, but it was too late. All the bad things were already out of the box. They flew away, out into the world.

Epimetheus woke up at the sound of her sobbing. "I opened the box and all these ugly things flew out," she cried. "I tried to catch them, but they all got out." Pandora opened the box to show him how empty it was. But the box was not quite empty. One tiny bug flew quickly out before Pandora could slam the lid shut again.

"Hello, Pandora," said the bug, hovering just out of reach. "My name is Hope." With a nod of thanks for being set free, Hope flew out into the world, a world that now held Envy, Crime, Hate, and Disease – and Hope.

Legend of the Trojan Horse

Once upon a time, a long time ago, there was an ancient city named Troy. Troy was located on the coast of Asia, across the sea from the Greek city-state of Sparta.

In those days, people used to build walls around their city to help protect them. Some walls were only a few feet high. Others as much as twenty feet high!

The people built gates in the wall. The gates could be opened to let people inside the city. In times of war, the gates could be closed and locked to stop intruders from getting inside.

Along the wall, inside of the city, a set of stairs wound up to the top. Warriors could stand at the top of the stairs and shoot arrows down at intruders who were trying to get inside the city. There were also holes built high on the wall. Archers could shoot arrows through the holes as well. If the wall was high enough and strong enough, it could do a pretty good job keeping intruders from coming inside.

The walls around Troy were very high and very strong. According to the legend of Trojan Horse, for ten long years, the Greeks had been trying to get over the wall around the city of Troy. But the Greeks could not get over the wall. And the Trojans could not drive the Greeks away. Year after year they fought. And year after year, neither side won.

One day, a Greek general, Odysseus, had a tricky idea. "Let's pretend to sail away," he suggested. "We'll leave a gift for Troy, a gift to announce the end of the war, a wooden horse with 30 men hidden inside. At night, these men can sneak out and open the gate of Troy!" That was the way things were done back then. When you admitted defeat, you supplied a gift. It could be a gift of money, art, slaves, anything really. It made sense to leave a gift of art. The Greeks were famous for their art.

The Greeks thought it was a brilliant idea. They had their best artists build the horse. It was a magnificent horse. When it was ready, the Greeks brought the huge wooden horse as close to Troy's city gates as they could get without being shot full of arrows. The Greeks pretended to sail away.

When the Trojan archers at the top of the stairs saw the Greeks leaving, they could not believe their eyes. Were the Greeks giving up at last? Had the Trojans won the war? It certainly appeared so! The Trojans dragged the horse inside their city and closed the gates.

Some people wanted to burn the horse, which would have been a sad fate for the Greek soldiers hidden inside. But the Trojan people said, "NO! It's too beautiful! We'll keep it forever as a reminder of our victory!" (The Greeks had counted on that reaction. The Greeks might be famous for their art, but the Trojans were famous for their bragging. The Greeks were sure the Trojans would want to display the magnificent horse. Sure enough, that's exactly what happened, or so legend says.)

That night, while the Trojan people slept soundly, exhausted from their celebrations, the 30 Greek men hidden inside the wooden horse climbed out and opened the gates of Troy and let the Greek army inside. That was the end of Troy.

There is an old saying, one still used today - *Beware of Greeks bearing gifts!* That old saying refers to the legend of the Trojan Horse.