

Greek Gods, Heroes, and Other Mythical Figures Research Project Fall 2026

In a “nutshell,” research the major Greek gods and goddesses as well as other notable characters, prepare a study guide, craft a movie trailer and commercial, share your study guide and videos, learn, and take a test on the major deities and a few other notable characters.

Please be in the library computer lab on the following dates for class:

Research: Thursday, 8/20; Friday, 8/21; Monday, 8/24

WeVideo: Tuesday, 9/8 ; Wednesday, 9/9

Testing/Due dates:

Test: 9/1-9/2

Videos Due: 9/14

Part One: Choose a partner and your topics.

In a group of 2-4, you will research **one** of the important deities and a subgroup or character important to Greek mythology.

Here are our choices:

1. Primary: Zeus
Secondary: Heracles (*include his 12 labors)
2. Primary: Poseidon
Secondary: The Erinyes or The Furies. (*Also known as--or similar to--The Poinai, The Arai, The Praxidikai, The Maniai)
3. Primary: Hera
Secondary: Jason and the Argonauts
4. Primary: Demeter
Secondary: Prometheus, including Epimetheus, and Pandora
5. Primary: Aphrodite
Secondary: The Graces (or the Charities, representative of the pleasures of life: beauty, charm, creativity, elegance, brightness, and splendor)
6. Primary: Eros and Psyche
Secondary: Adonis and Narcissus and Echo (*probably of Roman origin, not Greek)
7. Primary: Athena (also known as Pallas Athena *Inc. Aegis)
Secondary: Theseus and Ariadne
8. Primary: Artemis
Secondary: Hecate and Selene
9. Primary: Apollo
Secondary: The Nine Muses (Nine goddesses of the arts)
10. Primary: Ares
Secondary: Enyo (sister to Ares) and Eris (goddess of discord)
11. Primary: Hephaestus
Secondary: Orpheus and Eurydice
12. Primary: Hermes
Secondary: Perseus (*story of Perseus includes Medusa, the Graiae, and other characters)
13. Primary: Hestia
Secondary: The Three Fates and Tyche (Fortune) (The Fates are also called Moirai or Moirae. Individually, they are Clotho/Klotho, Lachesis or Lakheia, and Atropos or Aisa. *Not to be confused with the Graeae: three crones who share an eye and a tooth—please clarify this in your project.)
14. Primary: Dionysus
Secondary: Pan, satyrs and nymphs (*include a couple notable satyrs and nymphs)
15. Primary: Persephone and Hades (non-Olympians) (*include the geography of the place Hades in addition to information on the person Hades)
Secondary: Sisyphus, Tantalus, and Ixion (famously tortured in Hades)
16. Primary: Typhon and Echidna (father and mother to all monsters)
Secondary: Some of their notable children

Part Two: The Research

You must find information from at least three sources. One of the sources must be a print source. The others may be digital.

Here is the ESSENTIAL information you will need to find. Remember that you will be putting together a study guide on the essential information:

For your PRIMARY:

- ✓ The deity's domain – in other words, what is the deity the god or goddess of?
Note: These deities are often the gods/goddesses of multiple domains. Some will be more concrete or literal (i.e., the sea) and others more abstract (i.e., love).
- ✓ Symbols associated with the deity: most gods/goddesses have more than one symbol or association (animals, birds, weapons, clothing, gestures, etc.) You may need to explain these symbols, so understand their nuances or backstories if necessary.
- ✓ The deity's/deities' parentage or lineage and any important stories that go along with their births, upbringing, etc.
- ✓ Spouses and/or lovers and any relevant stories or information regarding said spouses/lovers. (*Some groups might note the distinctive lack of a lover or spouse and the reasons for this.)
- ✓ Any important children and their significance.
- ✓ One central story associated with this deity if not covered in any of the above.

For your SECONDARY:

- ✓ An essential story associated with the character or characters. Some groups may include more than one story because that group has more than one character. (*Note: Although some of you have primary and secondary characters who are associated by a common story or topic, others may not.)
- ✓ A clarification of why these characters were and are important, what they represent, their influence on the arts, psychology, stories, etc. (post-ancient Greek world), or perhaps why/how they are still relevant or popular.
- ✓ Any symbols or associations we have with these characters.

*If you find information outside of the above that you feel is really interesting, please include it. I love learning!

Part Three: The End Products (an overview)

1. A trailer (or promo) for a film, TV show, or video game about your primary deity (or deities).
2. At least one commercial advertising a product or service that represents one or more of your secondary characters.
3. One page explaining your trailer and your advertisement.
4. A study guide for other students on the essential information for your primary and secondary characters. The study guide should cover the essentials about your characters – symbols, domains, important stories, etc. (*see pages one and two.)

The Details:

*Remember that we will learn about WeVideo in the library computer lab.

The Movie, TV, or Video Game Trailer (2-5 mins):

- First, get creative: Your movie/TV show/video game can be any genre. What genre works best for your deity or your deity's story? Have fun with it. Brainstorm what would work best: Sitcom? Horror? Rom-Com? Game Show? Action-Thriller? Talk show? Reality show? Soap Opera? Marvel Universe? Role-playing game? First-person shooter game? Car-Racing Game? Etc. (There are so many more genres.)
- Make the genre obvious in your trailer/promo.
- Parody the formula, tropes, stereotypes, etc. of your chosen genre. This will aid in the fun and quality of your piece.
- Study famous and popular movie, video game, or TV show trailers or promos. Find inspiration.
- This should be 2-5 minutes long.
- The trailer or promo should provide an overview of your deity and imply your deity's essential story.
- Incorporate one or more of the important symbols or associates of your deity.
- Incorporate the primary domain for your deity and maybe more if possible.
- Costumes and props SHOULD BE used. Talk to me if you can't find any. (*Costumes and props should blend your understanding of the Greek deities and your chosen genre.)
- *Important: Groups should help one another out. Your trailer may need more characters than you have in your group, which means you may need to act in someone else's trailer.

The Advertisement(s) for a Product:

- Develop a commercial advertising your product representing one or more of your secondary characters.

- Consider researching popular and famous commercials from today and yesterday. Brainstorm the patterns, tropes, and genres/types of advertisements: food products, vacations, infomercials, non-profit ads, political ads, cleaning products, etc. Decide what product and/or advertisement type works best for your character(s).
- Imply in your ad an essential story, domain, or concept correlated with this character or characters.
- Costumes and props SHOULD BE used. Talk to me if you can't find any. (*Costumes and props should blend your understanding of the Greek deities and your chosen commercial/advertisement tropes.)
- Include at least one symbol for (or association with) the character(s)
- Again, groups may need more than 2-3 characters in a commercial, so please plan to help out other groups with acting.

One-Page Explanation of the trailer and advertisement:

- Please explain how you have accomplished the above requirements. This is your opportunity to point out to me (the person scoring your project) how you have included the required material. (For example, if there is a color scheme that symbolically represents an aspect of your deity, be sure I know this; otherwise, I may not recognize an important nuance.)

Study Guide:

- Please put together a study guide that others in the class can use as preparation for the test (1-2 pages)
 - Include in it the information you gathered during Part Two (on page 2). Look over the bullet points that guided your research. This is the essential information the class should know in preparation for the test. We will post the study guides in Schoology.
 - Present the information in simple, straightforward ways.
 - Though some information may require complete sentences, other information may be presented with bullet points, in shorthand, or in note form. (For instance, you might list with bullet points the symbols or associations or domains; however, you might use complete sentences for a summary of a story.)
 - Be sure that the information in your Study Guide comes from at least three different sources.
 - Correctly cite the information provided. (Note: This is the only document for which you will need to provide in-text citations).
 - The study guide can be in the form of a handout or a slide show.

Works Cited Page and In-Text Citations:

- Attached to your study guide, include a properly formatted Works Cited page, MLA style

- In-text citations in your study guide.

Group Members: _____

Deities, etc.: _____

Rubric:

Trailer or Promo:

Content: ____/20 points

- ☐ Depicts your deity(s) as a central character(s).
- ☐ Implies the important content of the story you found to be essential to your deity/deities.
- ☐ Incorporates the essential symbolism/associations/domains/etc. of the deity/deities.
- ☐ Suggests the primary domain(s) for your deity.

Style/Method: ____20 points (*I know we are not professional filmmakers 😊, but we will still do our best.)

- ☐ Length: Trailer is between 3-5 minutes (not too short, not too long)
- ☐ Approach is creative and unique while also parodying standard trailers or promos.
- ☐ Acting, presentation, choreography, and costuming work well to promote your movie/show/game.
- ☐ Editing: Scenes are ordered well, transition nicely.
- ☐ Sound Effects/Music/Voice-Overs/Etc. work well to enhance the experience, add emotional depth, engage or guide the viewer, don't distract, etc.
- ☐ Use of costumes and props reflects understanding of deity/ies and chosen genre.
- ☐ Trailer or promo is engaging, creative, and fun.

Advertisement(s):

Content: ____/15 points

- ☐ Accurately depicts secondary character or characters

- ☐ Implies or depicts important associations, values, domains, connotations, symbolism, etc. of the character or characters.

Style/Method: ____/15 points

- ☐ 1-2 minutes.
- ☐ Advertisement creatively transforms Greek mythical character content into a contemporary product or service.
- ☐ Product or service makes sense, connects to character.
- ☐ Advertisement does a good job “selling” the product or service.
- ☐ Advertisement parallels or parodies common ads while also maintaining its own integrity and uniqueness.
- ☐ Use of costumes and props reflects understanding of deity/ies and chosen advertising/commercial tropes.
- ☐ Ad is creative and fun.

One-Page Explanation of Your Videos

One-Page Explanation: ____/20 Points

- ☐ Explains details important for understanding the trailer and commercial.
- ☐ Communicates the group’s intentions and reasons behind creative decisions for the trailer and commercial (reasons behind chosen symbolism, motifs, directing or artistic decisions, etc.)
- ☐ Identifies details the group feels are important for the teacher (me!) to recognize and understand to best understand the two videos.
- ☐ Employs correct techniques of formal written language (spelling, grammar, mechanics, etc.) though allowances are made for personal pronouns and personal voice.

Study Guide

Study Guide: ____/20 points

- ☐ Includes the required information (Part Two, page 2) on your primary and secondary characters.
- ☐ Study guide is structured in an accessible and straightforward way (bullet points, shorthand, complete sentences when necessary, etc.)
- ☐ Information is properly cited in the study guide. *See below.

- Information comes from at least three sources.

Other

____/ 10 Points **Works Cited** page using MLA format and listing at least three sources.

____/ 10 Points **In-Text Citations:** Properly formatted in-text citations within the Study Guide.

____/ 130 Points Total