



Young
Audiences
Arts for
Learning
Massachusetts

MythMasters: Tales from Greek Mythology Guide

For Educators

About the Performance

Blow the dust off stories from ancient Greece and bring the power, majesty, and magic of Mount Olympus to life! MythMasters supplements your teachers' units on Greek mythology and explores the stories of Phaeton and Helios, Orpheus and Eurydice, and Echo and Narcissus. Through a skillful blend of mime, comedy, drama, puppetry, masks, music, reverence, irreverence, and lots of audience participation, the gods and goddesses, heroes and villains, monsters and maidens of Greek mythology walk the earth once more.

Program Learning Goals

1. To bring to life some of the most famous Greek myths
2. To explore how myths change and evolve over time
3. To familiarize students with many of the Greek gods and goddesses

Essential Questions

Introduce these as discussion questions prior to the show, and ask students to consider them as they watch the performance.

1. Why might people like the Ancient Greeks tell or write myths?
2. What kinds of beliefs or natural phenomenon do stories like myths explain?
3. Can you think of any modern myths, or stories that explain why something is the way it is?

Important Vocabulary to Pre-Teach

Myth: A traditional story about historical events that helps to explain a belief or phenomenon

Mythology: 1. The study of myths. 2. A collection of myths, especially belonging to one religion or culture.

Polytheism: A religion centered on belief in many gods and/or goddesses.

Further Resources

- Blaisdell, Bob. *Favorite Greek Myths*. Dover Publications, 1995.
- Vinge, Joan. *The Random House Book of Mythology*. New York: Random Library, 1998.
- Williams, Marcia. *Greek Myths for Young Children*. Candlewick Press, 1995
- "Ancient Greek Myths For Kids" <https://www.greekmyths4kids.com>



MythMasters: Tales from Greek Mythology

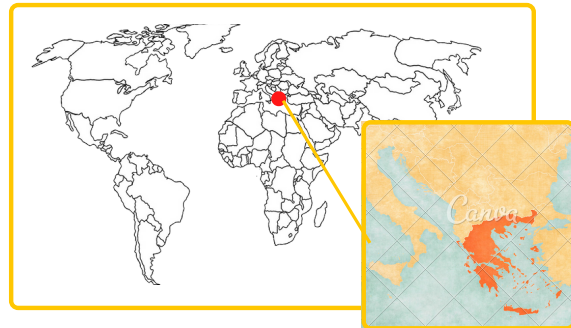
For Students

About the Program

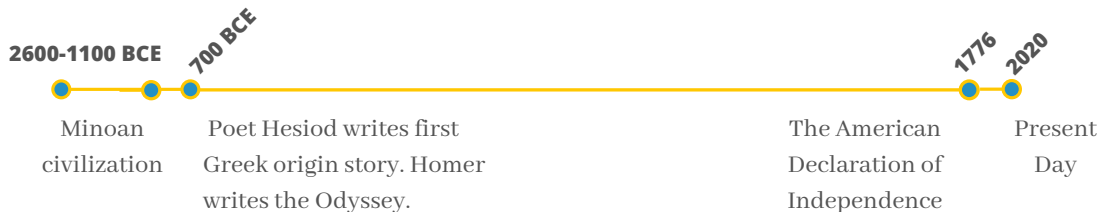
MythMasters: Tales from Greek Mythology is coming to your school. Get ready to meet the gods and goddesses, heroes and villains, monsters and maidens of Greek mythology.

Where & When

These myths come from Greece, a country in southeastern Europe. Greece is made up of thousands of islands in the Aegean and Ionian seas. Can you find it on the map? What do you know about the history, culture, language, and geography of Greece?



Greek myths are thousands of years old! Greek myths likely evolved from stories that were told by the Minoan civilization of Crete, an island in Greece, over 4,000 years ago.



What is a Myth Anyway?

A *myth* is a traditional story about historical events that helps to explain a belief or why something is the way it is. For example, the myth of Persephone and Hades explains why we have seasons. As you watch the performance, think about the following questions:

1. Why might people like the Ancient Greeks tell or write myths?
2. What kinds of beliefs or natural phenomenon do stories like myths explain?
3. Can you think of any modern myths that explain why something is the way it is?

Pre-Performance Activity: Comparing Myths, Fairytales, and Legends

Read a myth, a fairy tale, and a legend. What differences do you notice between each type of story? What makes a myth a myth?

Myth: *Demeter and Persephone* (<https://greece.mrdonn.org/greekgods/demeter.html>)

Fairy Tale: *Little Red Riding Hood* (<https://www.dltk-teach.com/rhymes/littlered/story.htm>)

Legend: *Robin Hood and the Golden Arrow* (<https://storiestogrowby.org/story/robin-hood-and-the-golden-arrow-story-legend-stories-for-kids/>)



MythMasters: Tales from Greek Mythology

For Students

Post-Performance Activity: Myth Making

- Think about different beliefs or natural phenomena that a myth might explain. For example, a myth could explain why we have hurricanes, or the origin of the house cat. Try to come up with as many ideas as you can.
- Decide on one belief or natural phenomenon to explain. Try to think outside the box! Maybe you know the scientific reason why the sky is blue, but what other explanation could you invent that would make an exciting story?
- Write a modern-day myth that explains the belief or natural phenomenon you chose.
- Brainstorm how to illustrate your myth, either with pictures or by acting it out. Which characters do you need to represent? How will you show the setting? Which events will you include in your illustrations? What themes were present in the story?
- Bring your myth to life by drawing pictures to accompany the story, creating a comic book that tells the story, or acting it out in a short play from the myth.



Ruins of the Theatre of Dionysus in Athens, Greece