**Greek Gods**

**Zeus**

Zeus was the god of the sky and ruler of the Olympian gods. Zeus overthew his Father [Cronus.](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Cronus/cronus.html) He then drew lots with his brothers [Poseidon](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Poseidon/poseidon.html) and [Hades](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Hades/hades.html). Zeus won the draw and became the [supreme ruler](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) of the gods. He is lord of the sky, the rain god. His weapon is a thunderbolt which he hurls at those who displease him. He is married to [Hera](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Hera/hera.html) but, is famous for his many [affairs](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/The_Myths/Zeus_s_Lovers/zeus_s_lovers.html). He is also known to punish those that lie or break oaths.He was the rain god, and the cloud gatherer, who wielded the terrible thunderbolt. His breastplate was the aegis, his bird the eagle, his tree the oak. He is represented as the god of justice and mercy, the protector of the weak, and the punisher of the wicked.

**Poseidon**

God of the sea, protector of all waters. Poseidon is the brother of [Zeus.](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) After the overthow of their Father [Cronus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Cronus/cronus.html) he drew lots with [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) and [Hades](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Hades/hades.html), another brother, for shares of the world. His [prize](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Poseidon/poseidon.html) was to become lord of the sea. He was widely worshiped by seamen. He married [Amphitrite](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Figures/Amphitrite/amphitrite.html), a granddaughter of the Titan [Oceanus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Oceanus/oceanus.html).

At one point he desired [Demeter](http://www.greekmythology.com/Other_Gods/Demeter/demeter.html). To put him off Demeter asked him to make the most beautiful animal that the world had ever seen. So to impress her Poseidon created the first horse. In some accounts his first attempts were unsucessful and created a varity of other animals in his quest. By the time the horse was created his passion for Demeter had cooled.

His weapon is a trident, which can shake the earth, and shatter any object. He is second only to Zeus in power amongst the gods. He has a difficult quarrelsome personality. He was greedy. He had a series of disputes with other gods when he tried to take over their cities.

**Hades**

Hades is the brother of [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html). After the overthow of their Father [Cronus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Cronus/cronus.html) he drew lots with [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) and [Poseidon](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Poseidon/poseidon.html), another brother, for shares of the world. He had the worst draw and was made lord of the [underworld](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Places/Untitled/untitled.html), ruling over the dead. He is a greedy god who is greatly concerned with increasing his subjects. Those whose calling increase the number of dead are seen favorably. The [Erinnyes](http://www.greekmythology.com/Other_Gods/The_Erinnyes/the_erinnyes.html) are welcomed guests. He is exceedingly disinclined to allow any of his subjects leave.

He is also the god of [wealth](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Hades/hades.html), due to the precious metals mined from the earth. He has a helmet that makes him invisable. He rarely leaves the underworld. He is unpitying and terrible, but not capricious. His wife is [Persephone](http://www.greekmythology.com/Other_Gods/Persephone/persephone.html) whom Hades abducted. He is the King of the dead but, death itself is another god, [Thanatos](http://www.greekmythology.com/Other_Gods/Thanatos/thanatos.html).

**Hestia**

Hestia is [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) sister. She is a virgin goddess. She does not have a distinct personality. She plays no part in myths. She is the Goddess of the Hearth, the symbol of the house around which a new born child is carried before it is received into the family. Each city had a public hearth sacred to Hestia, where the fire was never allowed to go out. Of all the Olympians, she is the mildest, most upright and most charitable.

**Hera**

Hera is [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) wife and sister. She was raised by the Titans [Ocean](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Oceanus/oceanus.html) and Tethys. Shea is the supreme goddess, goddess of [marriage](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Hera/hera.html) and childbirth and takes special care of married women.

Hera's marriage was founded in strife with Zeus and continued in strife. Zeus courted her unsuccesfully. He then turned to trickery, changing himself into disheveled cuckoo. Hera feeling sorry for the bird held it to her breast to warm it. Zues then resumed his normal form and taking advantage of the suprise he gained, raped her. She then married him to cover her shame.

Once when Zeus was being partcularly overbearing to the other gods, Hera convinced them to join in a revolt. Her part in the revolt was to drug Zeus, and in this she was successful. The gods then bound the sleeping Zeus to a couch taking care to tie many knots. This done they began to quarrel over the next step. [Briareus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Creatures/creatures.html) overheard the arguements. Still full of gratitude to Zeus, Briareus slipped in and was able to quickly untie the many knots. Zeus sprang from the couch and grapped up his thuderbolt. The gods fell to their knees begging and pleading for mercy. He seized Hera and hung her from the sky with gold chains. She wept in pain all night but, none of the others dared to interfere. Her weeping kept Zeus up and the next morning he agreed to release her if she would swear never to rebel again. She had little choice but, to agree. While she never again rebeled, she often intrigued against Zeus's plans and she was often able to outwit him.

Most stories concerning Hera have to do with her jealous revenge for Zeus's infidelities. Her sacred animals are the cow and the [peacock](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/The_Myths/Zeus_s_Lovers/zeus_s_lovers.html). Her favorite city is Argos.

**Aris**

Ares is the son of [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) and [Hera](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Hera/hera.html). He was disliked by both parents. He is the god of war. He is considered murderous and bloodstained but, also a coward. When caught in an act of adultery with [Aphrodite](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Aphrodite/aphrodite.html) her husband [Hephaestus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Hephaestus/hephaestus.html) is able publically ridicule him. His bird is the vulture. His animal is the dog.

**Athena**

Athena is the Greek virgin goddess of reason, intelligent activity, arts and literature. Athena is the daughter of [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html). She sprang full grown in armour from his forehead, thus has no mother. She is fierce and brave in battle but, only wars to defined the state and home from outside enemies. She is the goddess of the city, handicrafts, and agriculture. She invented the bridle, which permitted man to tame horses, the trumpet, the flute, the pot, the rake, the plow, the yoke, the ship, and the chariot. She is the embodiment of wisdom, reason, and purity. She was Zeus's favorite child and was allowed to use his weapons including his thunderbolt. Her favorite city is Athens. Her tree is the olive. The owl is her bird. She is a virgin goddess.

**Apollo**

Apollo is the son of [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) and [Leto](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Apollo/apollo.html#Leto). His twin sister is [Artemis](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Artemis/artemis.html). He is the god of music, playing a golden lyre. The Archer, far shooting with a silver bow. The god of healing who taught man medicine. The god of light. The god of truth, who can not speak a lie.

One of Apollo's more importaint daily tasks is to harness his chariot with four horses an drive the Sun across the sky.

He is famous for his oracle at Delphi. People travled to it from all over the greek world to devine the future.

His tree was the laurel. The crow his bird. The dolphin his animal.

**Aphrodite**

Aphrodite is the goddess of love, desire and beauty. In addition to her natural gifts she has a magical girdle that compels anyone she wishes to desire her. There are two accounts of her birth.

One says she is the daughter of [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) and [Dione](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Aphrodite/aphrodite.html#Dione).

The other goes back to when [Cronus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Cronus/cronus.html) castrated [Uranus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Uranus/uranus.html) and tossed his severed genitles into the sea. Aphrodite then arose from the sea foam on a giant scallop and walked to shore in Cyprus.

She is the wife of [Hephaestus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Hephaestus/hephaestus.html). The myrtle is her tree. The dove, the swann, and the sparrow her birds. Her favorite lover is the god of war, Ares. She represented sex, affection, and the attraction that binds people together.

**Hermes**

He was the cleverest of the Olympian gods, and messenger to all the other gods.

Hermes is the son of [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) and [Maia](http://www.greekmythology.com/Other_Gods/other_gods.html). He is Zeus messenger. He is the fastest of the gods. He wears winged sandals, a winged hat, and carries a magic wand. He is the god of thieves and god of commerce. He is the guide for the dead to go to the underworld. He invented the lyre, the pipes, the musical scale, astronomy , weights and measures, boxing, gymnastics, and the care of olive trees.

**Artemis**

She was goddess of chastity, virginity, the hunt, the moon, and the natural environment. Artemis is the daughter of [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) and [Leto](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Artemis/artemis.html#Leto). Her twin brother is [Apollo](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Apollo/apollo.html). She is the lady of the wild things. She is the huntsman of the gods. She is the protector of the young. Like Apollo she hunts with silver arrows. She became associated with the moon. She is a virgin goddess, and the goddess of chastity. She also presides over childbirth, which may seem odd for a virgin, but goes back to causing Leto no pain when she was born. She became associated with [Hecate](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Creatures/Hecatoncheires/hecatoncheires.html). The cypress is her tree. All wild animals are scared to her, especially the deer.

**Hephaestus**

Hephaestus is the son of [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) and [Hera](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Hera/hera.html). Sometimes it is said that Hera alone produced him and that he has no father. He is the only god to be physically ugly. He is also lame. Accounts as to how he became lame vary. Some say that Hera, upset by having an ugly child, flung him from [Mount Olympus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Places/Mount_Olympus/mount_olympus.html) into the sea, breaking his legs. Others that he took Hera's side in an arguement with Zeus and Zeus flung him off Mount Olympus. He is the god of fire and the forge. He is the smith and armorer of the gods. He uses a volcano as his forge. He is the patron god of both smiths and weavers. He is kind and peace loving. His wife is [Aphrodite](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Aphrodite/aphrodite.html). Sometimes his wife is identified as Aglaia.

**Demeter**

Demeter is the godess of corn, grain, and the harvest. She is the daughter of [Cronus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Cronus/cronus.html) and [Rhea](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Rhea/rhea.html). It is Demeter that makes the crops grow each year. The first loaf of bread from the harvest is scarificed to her. Demeter is the goddess of the earth, of agriculture, and of fertility in general. Sacred to her are livestock and agricultural products, poppy, narcissus and the crane.

Demeter is intimately associated with the seasons. Her daughter [Persephone](http://www.greekmythology.com/Other_Gods/Persephone/persephone.html) was abducted by [Hades](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Hades/hades.html) to be his wife in the [underworld](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Places/Untitled/untitled.html). In her anger at her daughter's loss Demeter laid a curse on the world that caused plants to wither and die, the land became desolate. [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) became alarmed and sought Persephone's return. However, because she had eaten while in the underworld Hades had a [claim](http://www.greekmythology.com/Other_Gods/Demeter/demeter.html) on her. Therefore, it was decreed that Persephone would spend four months each year in the underwold. During these months Demeter greves her daughters absence, and withdraws her gifts from the world, creating winter. Her return brought the spring.

Demeter is also known for founding the Eleusinian Mysteries. These were huge festivels held every five years. They were importaint events for many centuries. Yet, little is known of them as those attending were sworn to secrecy. The central tenant seems to have been that just as grain returns every spring after its harvest and wintery death, so too the human soul could be reborn after the death of the body.

**Persephone**

Persephone is the daughter of [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) and [Demeter](http://www.greekmythology.com/Other_Gods/Demeter/demeter.html). She was the goddess of springtime and, after her abduction by [Hades](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Hades/hades.html) she became his wife and Queen of the [underworld](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Places/Untitled/untitled.html) for six months of each year. The mint and pomegranate is sacred to her.

Persephone raised Aphrodite's child Adonis. She was also known as Kore, "the Maiden". She symbolized the sprouting seeds of springtime.

**Dionysus**

He was the god of fertility and wine, later considered a patron of the arts. He invented wine and spread the art of tending grapes. He has a dual nature. On the one hand bringing joy and devine ecstasy. On the other brutal, unthinking, rage. Thus, reflecting both sides of wines nature. If he choses Dionysus can drive a man mad. No normal fetters can hold him or his followers.

Dionysus is the son of [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) and [Semele](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/The_Myths/Zeus_s_Lovers/zeus_s_lovers.html). He is the only god to have a mortal parent. Zeus came to Semele in the night, invisable, felt only as a devine presence. Semele was pleased to be a lover of a god, even though she did not know which one. Word soon got around and [Hera](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Hera/hera.html) quickly assumed who was responsible. Hera went to Semele in disguise and convinced her she should see her lover as he really was. When Zeus next came to her she made him promise to [grant](http://www.greekmythology.com/Other_Gods/Dionysus/dionysus.html) her one wish. She went so far as to make him swear on the River Styx that he would grant her request. Zeus was madly in love and agreed. She then asked him to show her his true form. Zeus, was unhappy, and knew what would happen but, having sworn he had no choice. He appeared in his true form and Semele was instantly burnt to a crisp by the sight of his glory. Zeus did manage to rescue Dionysus and stiched him into his thigh to hold him until he was ready to be born. His birth from Zeus alone conferred immortality upon him.

Dionysus problems with Hera were not yet over. She was still jealous and arranged for the [Titans](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/titans.html) to kill him. The Titans ripped him into to pieces. However, [Rhea](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Rhea/rhea.html) brought him back to life. After this Zeus arranged for his protection and turned him over the mountain nymphs to be raised.

Dionysus [wandered](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/The_Myths/The_Wanderings_of_Dionysus/the_wanderings_of_dionysus.html) the world actively encouraging his cult. He was accompanied by the Maenads, wild women, flush with wine, shoulders draped with a fawn skin, carrying rods tipped with pine cones. While other gods had templaces the followers of Dionysus worshipped him in the woods. Here they might go into mad states where they would rip apart and eat raw any animal they came upon.

Dionysus is also one of the very few that was able to bring a dead person out of the [underworld.](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Places/Untitled/untitled.html) Even though he had never seen Semele he was concerned for her. Eventually he journeyed into the underworld to find her. He faced down [Thanatos](http://www.greekmythology.com/Other_Gods/Thanatos/thanatos.html) and brought her back to [Mount Olympus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Places/Mount_Olympus/mount_olympus.html).

Dionysus became one of the most important gods in everyday life. He became associated with several key concepts. One was rebirth after death. Here his dismemberment by the Titans and return to life is symbolically echoed in tending vines, where the vines must be pruned back sharply, and then become dormant in winter for them to bear fruit. The other is the idea that under the influence of wine, one could feel possessed by a greater power. Unlike the other gods Dionysus was not only outside his believers but, also within them. At these times a man might be greater then himself and do works he otherwise could not.

The festivel for Dionysus is in the spring when the leaves begin to reapper on the vine. It became one of the most important events of the year. It's focus became the theater. Most of the great greek plays were initially written to be performed at the feast of Dionysus. All who took part writers, actors, spectators were regaurded as scared servents of Dionysus during the festivel.

**Eros**

Eros is the son of [Aphrodite](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Aphrodite/aphrodite.html). Eros is the god of love. In particular erotic, romantic, love. He is often represented blindfolded because, love is often blind. His "weapon" is darts or arrows. In either case the tips have been magically treated to produce either uncontrolable love or unsurmountable disintrested in the first person seen be Eros's victim after wounding.

**Hebe**

Hebe is the daughter of [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) and [Hera](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Hera/hera.html). She is the goddess of youth. She, along with Ganymede are the cupbearers to the gods. Hebe is [Hercules](http://www.greekmythology.com/Other_Gods/Hebe/hebe.html#Hercules) wife.

**Eris**

Hebe is the daughter of [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) and [Hera](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Hera/hera.html). She is the goddess of discord. In addition to her main activity of sowing discord, she frequently accompanies her brother [Aris](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Aris/aris.html) to battles. On these occasions she rides his chariot and brings her son Strife.

Eris is unpopular and frequently snubbed as a guest by the other gods and mankind. This was not always a safe thing to do. The most dramatic example being the [Trojan War](http://www.greekmythology.com/Other_Gods/Eris/eris.html), which was an indirect result of not inviting Eris to a wedding.

**Helios**

Helios was the greek sun god. He may be thought of as a personification of the sun. He plays little role in the myths. He became rather overshadowed by [Apollo](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Apollo/apollo.html) the lord of the sun. He was the son of [Hyperion](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Hyperion/hyperion.html).

**Thanatos**

Thanatosos was the greek god of death. He may be thought of as a personification of death. He plays little role in the myths. He became rather overshadowed by [Hades](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Hades/hades.html) the lord of death.

**Pan**

He was the son of [Hermes](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Hermes/hermes.html) and Penelope (later married to Odysseus) in some myths and the son of Zeus and the nymph Callisto in others. He was the god of flocks and shepherds. He is the god of goatherds and shepherds. He is mostly human in appearnce but, with goat horns and goat feet. He is an excellent musician and plays the pipes. He is merry and playful frequently seen dancing with woodland nymphs. He is at home in any wild place but, is favorite is Arcady, where he was born. He is always in pursuit of one of the nymphs but, always rejected because he is ugly.

His name is the basis for the word "panic". There are two differing explanations for this. The first is that he was present when [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) defeated the [Titans](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/titans.html) and claimed that it has his yelling that caused the Titans to [flee](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/The_Myths/The_Creation/the_creation.html). However, this seems at odds with his being Hermes son. The second is that he created the noises in the woods at night the scared travelers.

**Nemesis**

Nemesis means righteous anger, due enactment, or devine vengence. This god helped to avenge those who were wronged.

**The Graces**

They are the daughters of [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) and [Eurynome](http://www.greekmythology.com/Other_Gods/The_Graces/the_graces.html#Eurynome). There are three Graces: Aglaia (Splendor), Euphrosyne (Mirth), and Thalia (Good Cheer). The are known for singing and dancing for the gods.

**The Muses**

They are the daughters of [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) and [Mnemosyne](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Mnemosyne_/mnemosyne_.html). They are known for the music of their song, which brings joy to any who hear it. There are nine Muses, each with her own specialty: Clio (History), Urania (Astronmy), Melpomene (Tragedy), Thalia (Comedy), Terpsichore (Dance), Calliope (Epic Poetry), Erato ([Love Poetry](http://www.greekmythology.com/Other_Gods/The_Muses/the_muses.html)), Polyhymnia (Songs to the Gods), Euterpe (Lyric Poetry).

**The Erinnyes**

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| Also known as the Furies, punish [crime](http://www.greekmythology.com/Other_Gods/The_Erinnyes/the_erinnyes.html). They persue wrong doers relentlessly, until death, often driving them to suicide. They are particularly concerned with matricide. There are three Erinnyes, Tisiphone, Megaera, and Alecto. The Erinnyes came from the blood of [Uranus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Uranus/uranus.html) when he was castrated. **The Fates**The Fates have the subtle but awesome power of deciding a man's destiny. They assign a man to good or evil. Their most obvious choice is choosing how long a man lives. There are three Fates. Clotho, the spinner, who spins the thread of life. Lachesis, the measurer, who choses the lot in life one will have and measures off how long it is to be. Atropos, she who cannot be turned, who at death with her shears cuts the thread of life.The Fates are old and predate the gods. It is not entirely clear how far their power extends. It is possible that they determine the fate of the gods as well. In any case, not even the most powerful is willing to triffle with them.  |

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**Gaea**

Gaea is the Earth goddess. She mated with her son [Uranus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Uranus/uranus.html) to produce the remaining Titans. Gaea seems to have started as a neolithic earth-mother worshipped before the Indo-European invasion that eventually lead to the Hellinistic civilization.

**Uranus**

Uranus is the sky god and first ruler. He is the son of [Gaea](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Gaea/gaea.html), who created him without help. He then became the husband of Gaea and together they had many offspring, including twelve of the Titans.

His rule ended when when [Cronus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Cronus/cronus.html), encouraged by Gaea, castrated him. He either died from the wound or withdrew from earth.

**Cronus**

Cronus was the ruling Titan who came to power by castrating his Father [Uranus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Uranus/uranus.html). His wife was Rhea. There offspring were the first of the [Olympians](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/olympians.html). To insure his safety Cronus ate each of the children as they were born. This worked until Rhea, unhappy at the loss of her children, tricked Cronus into swallowing a rock, instead of [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html). When he grew up Zeus would revolt against Cronus and the other Titans, defeat them, and banish them to Tartarus in the underworld.

Cronus managed to escape to Italy, where he ruled as Saturn. The period of his rule was said to be a golden age on earth, honored by the Saturnalia feast.

**Rhea**

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| Rhea was the wife of [Cronus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Cronus/cronus.html). Cronus made it a practice to swallow their children. To avoid this, Rhea tricked Cronus into swallowing a rock, saving her son [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html). **Oceanus**Oceanus is the unending stream of water encircling the world. Together with his wife [Tethys](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Tethys/tethys.html) produced the rivers and the three thousand ocean nymphs.  |

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**Tethys**

Tethys is the wife of [Oceanus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Oceanus/oceanus.html). Together they produced the rivers and the three thousand ocean nymphs.

**Hyperion**

Hyperion is the Titan of light, the father of the sun, the moon, and the dawn.

**Mnemosyne**

Mnemosyne was the Titan of memory and the mother of [Muses](http://www.greekmythology.com/Other_Gods/The_Muses/the_muses.html).

**Themis**

Themis was the Titan of justice and order. She was the mother of the [Fates](http://www.greekmythology.com/Other_Gods/The_Fates/the_fates.html) and the Seasons.

**Iapetus**

Iapetus was the father of [Prometheus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Iapetus/iapetus.html#Prometheus), [Epimetheus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Iapetus/iapetus.html#Epimetheus), and [Atlas](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Iapetus/iapetus.html#Atlas).

**Coeus**

Titan of Intelligence. Father of Leto.

**Crius**

A Titan, married Eurbia. Had 3 children: Astraios, Perses, Pallas. Was grandfather of (Astraios married Eos): Zephyros/Zephyrus (West Wind), Boreas (North Wind), Notos/Notus (South Wind), Eosphoros/Eurus (East Wind), and all the "stars". Was also grandfather of (Pallas married Styx): Zelos, Nike, Kratos, Bia.

**Phoebe**

Titan of the Moon. Mother of Leto.

**Thea**

The wife of her brother Hyperion, Theia gave birth to Helios (sun), Eos (dawn), and Selene (moon). She is the goddess from whom light emanates and considered especially beautiful.

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| **Prometheus**Prometheus was the wisest Titan. His name means "forethought" and he was able to foretell the future. He was the son of [Iapetus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Iapetus/iapetus.html). When [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) revolted against [Cronus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Cronus/cronus.html) Prometheus deserted the other Titans and fought on Zeus side. By some accounts he and his brother [Epimetheus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Epimetheus/epimetheus.html) were delagated by Zeus to create man. In all accounts, Prometheus is known as the protector and benifactor of man. He gave mankind a number of gifts including fire. He also tricked Zeus into allowing man to keep the best part of the animals scarificed to the gods and to give the gods the worst parts. For this Zeus punished Prometheus by having him chained to a rock with an eagle tearing at his liver. He was to be left there for all eternity or until he agreed to disclose to Zeus which of Zeus children would try to replace him. He was eventually rescued by Hercules without giving in to Zeus.  |

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**Epimetheus**

Epimetheus was a stupid Titan, whose name means "afterthought". He was the son of [Iapetus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Iapetus/iapetus.html). In some accounts he is delegated, along with his brother [Prometheus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Prometheus/prometheus.html) by [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) to create mankind. He also accepted the gift of Pandora from Zeus, which lead to the introduction of evil into the world.

**Atlas**

Atlas was the son of [Iapetus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Iapetus/iapetus.html). Unlike his brothers [Prometheus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Prometheus/prometheus.html) and [Epimetheus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Epimetheus/epimetheus.html), Atlas fought with the other Titans supporting [Cronus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Cronus/cronus.html) against [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html). Due to Cronus's advance age Atlas lead the Titan's in battle. As a result he was singled out by Zeus for a special punishment and made to hold up the world on his back.

**Metis**

Metis was the Titaness of the forth day and the planet Mercury. She presided over all wisdom and knowledge. She was [seduced](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/The_Myths/Birth_of_Athena/birth_of_athena.html) by [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) and became pregnant with [Athena](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Athena/athena.html). Zeus became concerned over [prophecies](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/The_Myths/Birth_of_Athena/birth_of_athena.html) that her second child would replace Zeus. To avoid this Zeus ate her. It is said that she is the source for Zeus wisdom and that she still advises Zeus from his belly.

It may seem odd for Metis to have been pregnant with Athena but, never mentioned as her mother. This is because the classic greeks believed that children were generated soley from the fathers sperm. The women was thought to be nothing more then a vessal for the fetus to grow in. Since Metis was killed well before Athena's birth her role doesn't count.

**Leto**

Leto is the daughter of [Coeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Coeus/coeus.html) and [Phoebe](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Phoebe/phoebe.html). She was an early and favorite lover of [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html). Zeus married [Hera](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Hera/hera.html) while Leto was pregnant. While the pregnancy began before the [marriage](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/The_Myths/Zeus_s_Lovers/Leto/leto.html) Hera was still jealous of Leto. For the duration of Leto's pregnancy Hera created problems. First Leto was pushed out of [Olympus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Places/Mount_Olympus/mount_olympus.html). As she wandered no place would allow her to stay for fear Hera would be offended. Hera had the dragon Python chase her. Zeus saved her by sending the North Wind Boreas to carry her out to sea.

Finally, the desolate rocky island of Delos, which had little to lose, accepted her. The other goddesses gathered to help Leto as she gave birth. Hera stayed away and managed to [detain](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/The_Myths/Zeus_s_Lovers/Leto/leto.html) Eileithyia, goddess of childbirth, until Iris fetched her. Leto first gave birth to [Artemis](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Artemis/artemis.html) and then after another nine days of labor to [Apollo](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Apollo/apollo.html).

Still fleeing Hera's wrath she went to Lycia. The peasants tried to prevent her from drinking from their well, so she turned them into frogs. Initially Leto's problems continued. But, now she had her two fast developing children, both of whom became powerful archers, to protect her. When four days old Apollo was able to slay Python. Then the Euboean giant Tityus tried to rape Leto only to be killed by the children. As they grew into their full power the twins become willing to avenge Leto's honor as well as to protect her safety. Niobe boasted that she was more deserving of adulation then Leto because she had borne seven sons and seven daughters. The twins replied to this by slaying all but one of Niobe's children.

As the mother of two powerful gods Leto returned to Zeus's favor despite Hera's disapproval. After Apollo killed the [Cyclopes](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Creatures/Cyclopes/cyclopes.html), Leto was able to persuade Zeus to lighten his punishment. She spent much of her time hunting with Artemis. She sided with the Trojans during the war and helped heal Aeneas from his battle wounds.

**Europa**

The Cretan moon goddess who was adopted into Greek myth as a virgin Phoenician princess abducted by Zeus in the form of a bull, raped by him, and subsequently abandoned. Europa was the daughter of the King Agenor of Sidon. She had the continent of Europe named for her. Somewhat miraculously [Hera](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Hera/hera.html) was distracted during her affair with [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) and never punished her for it.

One night Europa had a dream. In this dream two continents, which were in the forms of women were arguing over Europa. Asia maintained that since Europa had been born in Asia she belonged to it. The other continent, which was nameless, said that her birth was not important, that Zeus would give her to it.

It was early morning, disturbed by the dream Europa did not go back to sleep. She summoned her companions, who were all daughters of nobility and of her age. It was a beautiful day and they went off gathering flowers by the sea. Zeus noticed this charming group, particularly Europa, who was the prettiest of the maidens. Some say that [Eros](http://www.greekmythology.com/Other_Gods/Eros/eros.html), induced him into action with one of his darts. Although, Zeus often made due with self motivation. In any case, Zeus appeared to the group as a white bull. A white bull more beautiful then any other. A bull that smelled of flowers, and lowed musically. A bull so obviously gentle that all the maidens rushed to stroke and pet it.

The bull laid down in front of Europa. She slid on to its back. Instantly, the bull charged off, plunging into the sea, and began to swim rapidly from the shore. Europa saw that a procession had joined them, [Nereids](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Figures/Nereids/nereids.html) riding dolphins, [Triton](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Figures/Triton/triton.html) blowing his horn, even [Poseidon](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Poseidon/poseidon.html). From this she realized that the bull must be a god. She pleaded with him to pity her. Zeus spoke to her and explained his love. He took her to Create, where he had been raised. He promised that she would bear him many famous sons.

Her sons included [Minos](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Figures/Minos/minos.html) and [Rhadamanthus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Figures/Rhadamanthus/rhadamanthus.html)

**Io**

Princess of Argos. Zeus fell in love with Io and seduced her. To try to keep Hera from noticing he covered the world with a thick blanket of clouds. This backfired, arousing Hera's suspicions. She came down from Mount Olympus and began dispersing the clouds. Zeus did some quick thinking and changed Io's form from being a lovely maiden. So as the clouds dispersed Hera found Zeus standing next to a white heifer. He then swore that he had never seen the cow before, it had just sprang right out of the earth. Seeing right through this Hera complemented the cow and asked to have it as a present. As turning such a reasonable request down would have given the whole thing away, Zeus presented her with the cow.

She sent the cow away and arranged [Argus Panoptes](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Creatures/Argus_Panoptes/argus_panoptes.html) to watch over it. Since Argus had a hundred eyes and could have some of them sleep while others were awake he made a fine watchman. Desperate, Zeus sent [Hermes](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Hermes/hermes.html) to fetch Io. Disguised as a Shepard, Hermes had to employ all his skill as a musician and story teller to gain Argus confidence and lull him to sleep. Once asleep Hermes killed Argus. As a memorial, Hera took his eyes and set them into the tail of her favorite bird, the peacock.

While Io was now free Hera sent the mother of all gad-flys to sting the still bovine Io. The ghost of Argus pursued her as well. This pushed her near madness, trying to escape she wandered the world. During her wanders she came across [Prometheus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Prometheus/prometheus.html) while [chained](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/The_Myths/Creation_of_Man_by_Prometheus/creation_of_man_by_prometheus.html). He gave her hope. He predicted that she would have to wander for many years. But, she would eventually be changed back into human form and would bear a child. He predicted that a descendent of this child would be a great hero and set him free.

His predictions came true. During her wanderings many geographical features were named after her including the Ionian Sea, and the Bosphorus (which means ford of the cow). She eventually reached the Nile where Zeus did restore her to human form. She bore [Epaphus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Figures/Epaphus/epaphus.html) and eleven generations later her descendant [Heracles](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Heroes/Heracles/heracles.html) would set Prometheus free.

**Semele**

Semele was a Thebian princess. She is the only mortal to be the parent of a god. She was one of [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) many lovers and like most came to an unfortunate end due to [Hera's](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Hera/hera.html) jealous hatred. She is best known as the mother of [Dionysus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Other_Gods/Dionysus/dionysus.html). While she was killed shortly before [giving birth](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/The_Myths/Zeus_s_Lovers/Semele_/semele_.html) the child was rescued by Zeus. Eventually Dionysus, who had never seen her, managed to rescue her from [the underworld](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Places/Untitled/untitled.html). and arrange for her to live on [Mount Olympus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Places/Mount_Olympus/mount_olympus.html).

**Ganymede**

A Trojan prince known for his beauty. It is uncertain which of the Trojan kings was his father, probably Tros or Laomedon. While still a youth, [Zeus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Olympians/Zeus/zeus.html) appeared in the form of an eagle and carried him off to [Mount Olympus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Places/Mount_Olympus/mount_olympus.html). Some accounts say he was carried to Olympus by a whirlwind. He served Zeus as cupbearer and lover. His role was commemorated in the constellation Aquarius, the water carrier.

**Callisto**

Daughter of Lycaon, King of Arcadia. She was one of Artemis hunting attendants. As a companion of Artemis, Callisto would have taken a vow of chastity. Zeus appeared to her in disguise, probably as Artemis, gained her confidence, then took advantage of her. As a result of this encounter she conceived a son, Arcas.

She was turned into a large bear, either by Zeus as part of an attempt to hide his philandering, or by Hera out of jealously, or by Artemis out of anger that she broke her vow of chastity. Not content with Callisto’s fate as a bear, Hera continued to work against her to get Artemis to think she was a normal bear and slay her. Zeus came to the rescue turning her into the constellation Arctos, the Great Bear, also known as Ursa Major. At Zeus direction, Hermes saved Arcas from the womb and took him to be raised by Maia. She was joined by her son who became the nearby constellation Arctophylax, the Little Bear, also known as Ursa Minor.

Continuing to hold a grudge Hera persuaded Tethys and Oceanus not to allow Callisto to enter their realm, the Ocean. Due to this Callisto must circle the North Star and never set over the horizon.