

Grade 2

Knowledge 3

Take-Home Pages

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Knowledge 3

Legends and Heroes: Greek Myths

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

1.1

Take-Home

Dear Caregiver,

Today, your student heard a Read-Aloud about the twelve Greek gods and goddesses that ancient Greeks believed lived on Mount Olympus. Over the next several days, your student will review that ancient Greeks worshipped many gods and goddesses, and that the twelve on Mount Olympus were thought to be the most powerful. They will learn the definition of a myth (a fictional story, once thought to be true), and that myths try to explain occurrences in nature, teach moral stories, and entertain listeners. Your student will hear several well-known Greek myths including “Prometheus and Pandora,” “Demeter and Persephone,” and “Arachne the Weaver.”

Below are some suggestions for activities that you may do at home to reinforce what your student is learning about Greek myths.

1. The Twelve Gods of Mount Olympus

Have your student share which twelve gods and goddesses that ancient Greeks thought lived on Mount Olympus and what these gods and goddesses were in charge of. (*Zeus, Poseidon, Demeter, Hera, Hephaestus, Aphrodite, Athena, Ares, Apollo, Artemis, Hermes, Dionysus*) As your student shares what they know about these twelve Greek gods and goddesses, share with them what you know, including any Greek gods and goddesses that they have not heard about.

2. Sayings and Phrases: Cold Feet

Your student will learn the saying “cold feet” in relation to the Greek myth of Daedalus and Icarus. Before Daedalus and his son Icarus use their wax wings to try to escape from the prison tower, Daedalus hesitates with sudden fear. Talk with your student about other situations where one might use the saying “cold feet.”

3. Words to Use

Below is a list of some of the words that your student will be learning about and using. Try to use these words as they come up in everyday speech with your student.

- *myths*—Many ancient peoples told myths, fictional stories thought to be true at the time. Myths often tried to explain events in nature, or taught a lesson. Greek myths often have characters who are gods or goddesses, humans, and/or creatures.
- *mortal*—All humans are mortal, which means that they are born and later die.
- *immortal*—Greek gods and goddesses were believed to be immortal, which means they never die.

4. Read Aloud Each Day

Reading to your student every day is very beneficial to their literacy development. Books related to Greek myths and ancient Greek civilization may be found at the local library.

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

7.1

Take-Home

Dear Caregiver,

Today, your student heard a Read-Aloud about the most famous hero in Greek mythology, Hercules. Over the next several days your student will hear more about the twelve labors of Hercules, specifically his fight with the Nemean lion and his search for the golden apples of the Hesperides. Your student will also hear about the riddle of the Sphinx and the story of Atalanta, a swift-footed huntress who refused to marry.

Below are some suggestions for activities that you may do at home to reinforce what your student is learning about Greek myths over the next several days.

1. Hercules

Have your student share with you what they have learned about Hercules. You may wish to search at the library or online for text or more details about Hercules' other labors to share with your student.

2. The Riddle of the Sphinx

Talk with your student about the riddle of the Sphinx, a winged, mythical creature with the body of a lion and the face of a woman. Have your student tell you the riddle and share the answer with you after you have guessed. If you know of any other riddles, share them with your student, or brainstorm with your student to create new riddles about the Greek myths they have heard.

3. Atalanta

Ask your student to tell you about Atalanta, the swift-footed huntress. Discuss with your student how the goddess Aphrodite helped one of Atalanta's suitors trick her, sharing that the Greek gods and goddesses were believed to have often interfered in the lives of mortals. Share with your student other myths you may know of where the Greek gods or goddesses interfered in the lives of others.

4. Words to Use

Here is a list of some of the words that your student will be learning about and using. Try to use these words as they come up in everyday speech with your student.

- *labors*—Hercules had to complete twelve difficult labors or tasks.
- *reputation*—Hercules cleared his reputation, or the people's opinion of him, as ill-tempered after he completed those twelve labors.
- *posed*—The Sphinx posed her difficult riddle to any traveler who walked the road to Thebes.
- *resist*—Atalanta was unable to resist the golden apples.

5. Read Aloud Each Day

Reading to your student every day is very beneficial to their literacy development. Books related to Greek myths and ancient Greek civilization may be found at the local library.

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