

Hi Pamela,

Great job completing Unit 1 of Mythology!

1. Nice answer! When you think about it, there's really SO MUCH in the world that would seem strange if you didn't know the scientific explanation for what was happening. I especially like your example of a solar eclipse--the disappearance of the sun must have been both awe-inspiring and terrifying for the people of the ancient world! Mythology can be so interesting--before scientists were able to explain so much people were really creative in coming up with explanations for everything from the weather to the constellations to animal behavior and more.

2. This is such a difficult question! Your answer is interesting--especially in the context of Greek mythology. Your belief--that we have the ability to make our own choices but are then judged by a higher power--is almost the opposite of what the ancient Greeks believed. They believed that the gods mostly controlled humans' lives and so whatever happened, good or bad, was really the fault of the gods, not the humans. The world has really changed since then!

3. Your vision of the perfect god or goddess sounds wonderful! You chose so many great characteristics. Two in particular stood out: humble and meek. Those are definitely not what a person would first think of when they think of a god but I like that you included them. A god who is just powerful can be scary--he might abuse that power. But a god that is powerful AND humble/meek would be so much better. Nice job!

4. A phoenix is a great choice! Your description of how a phoenix can heal with its tears and rise from its own ashes is very powerful. What a good symbol to have.

5. You've pinpointed the big difference between Zeus and God. (Based on your answers I assume you mean the Christian God--with all these gods and goddesses in this unit, it can get a little confusing! :-). God, though he can be angry and vengeful, is motivated by righteousness. But Zeus (and all the Greek gods) is far from righteous. He's got a lot of power, but he definitely abuses it! One of the things that is so interesting about Greek mythology is that the gods and goddesses seem so human. They have all our virtues and all our flaws. That's very different from today's Christian God, who is depicted as perfect. Do you think you'd rather have a God who is perfect or a God who is more like us? Why?

6. Good examples. Did you notice that the Egyptian creation myth and the Christian creation myth share a similar element (dust/dirt)? As you learn more about mythology you'll notice that some elements of the stories show up in multiple cultures. Why do you think that might be?

7. Good job--I especially like your choice of an open mouth for Uranus.

8. Great! Cronos is really questioning whether his and his father's actions were right. I like that you have Cronos forgiving his father. Do you think Zeus will forgive Cronos for what Cronos did to him? Also, I love that Cronos signed off saying, "Eternally, Cronos." That's perfect! Not only because he's a god and therefore could live eternally, but also because the name "Cronos" is the root of many time-related words, like 'chronology.' Very clever!

9. Your idea actually seems like a better idea than feeding Cronos a rock. Don't you think he ought to have noticed that he was eating a rock and not a child?

10. This news article is great! I love all the puns you included! One thing, though: Uranus actually died before the Titan Wars. It was Cronos who was forced to regurgitate his children. So, that's the tricky thing about Greek mythology--there are so many names! It's really easy to mix them up or forget who is related to whom. Don't worry about it, but feel free to go back to the story to double-check who's who.

11. Good job with these, especially the third one!

12. Awesome! I imagine that burger as a burger so big it wouldn't even fit in a person's mouth! Truly titan!

13. I love your idea that Mercury got its name because of its mercurial attitude! Can you imagine a story where a planet has attitude? What would happen in the story? It's okay that you're just guessing here--that is what the Greeks did when they wrote their myths! Mythology starts out simply as stories people tell each other. Sometimes the stories grow and get more complicated and link together into a whole religion/worldview (just like it did for the Greeks--or Hindus or Native Americans or Mayans) but in the beginning the myths start out with one person saying, "I wonder how that happened? Maybe it went like this..." And then a new myth is born!

14. You're right--the track and field sports are most likely to have been similar to the games the Greeks played. They also wrestled, boxed, and rode horses. It's pretty amazing to think about how our modern day Olympics grew out of a simple one-day track and field competition! What do you think the Greeks would think of the modern Olympics?

15. Nice! This is a good pep talk!

16. Great job! Drawing can be intimidating, but you did a great job. I really like your depiction of the Cyclops--he looks big, scary, and thoroughly angry!

17. Good job with this question--you're exactly right. Isn't it interesting how these ancient words have become such a large part of our culture that they are even used in car names and advertisements? One word, from two thousand or more years ago, is still being used today. Wow!

Great job with this unit! Greek mythology is full of adventure, magic, and intrigue--I hope you enjoy learning and reading more about it!

Sincerely,

Lindsey