

THE GODS OF ANCIENT GREECE



Zeus was the god of the sky and thunder. He was king of the gods, able to unleash his thunderbolt if he ever encountered a situation that angered or caused him annoyance.



Hephaestus was the god of blacksmiths, fire and volcanoes. He worked in his own palace on Mount Olympus, forging winged helmets, weapons, and chariots for other gods.



Athena was the goddess of wisdom, civilisation, art and justice. Because of her unique qualities, Greeks worshipped her as the protector of the ancient city of Athens.



Aphrodite was known as the goddess of love. But, fearing that her beauty might easily lead to war, Zeus had her married to Hephaestus, who was thought to be hideous.



Apollo, the son of Zeus, was the god of prophecy, music, poetry and truth, and was portrayed as an athletic youth. People turned to him for healing and protection from evil.



Hermes could fly quickly between the gods on Olympus and humans on Earth. Often sculpted with wings on his helmet or sandals, he was the messenger of the gods.

Now go to the next page and answer the questions. Remember you can come back and check the text for clues at any time.

1. Match each word to one that means the opposite. One has been done for you.

annoyance		ignorance
quickly	—	slowly
wisdom		unfit
justice		pleasure
athletic		unfairness

2. In the descriptions of the Greek gods, find words that mean the following:

Meaning	Word
met or came across	
only one of its kind	
creating something by heating and hammering	
very ugly	
a prediction of a future event	

3. Can you think of other words for these?

thunderbolt _____ 

ancient _____ 

fearing _____ 

PANDORA'S BOX

Zeus ordered Hephaestus to create Pandora, the first woman on Earth. The gods gave her many gifts: Athena clothed her, Apollo gave her musical ability, Aphrodite gave her beauty and Hermes gave her speech.



But the king of the gods was so cunning. He gave her hand in marriage to the gentle, kind-hearted Epimetheus in order to seek revenge on his brother, Prometheus for giving fire to humans.


Zeus presented Pandora with a box, a key and a note that warned against opening it. Tragically, curiosity got the better of her. Pandora lifted the lid. All at once, all that was destructive escaped into the world: death, sickness, envy and war. Only one thing remained and that was HOPE.

Was it a Box?



The original Greek word was **pithos**. It wasn't a box, but an immense jar, often big enough for someone to fit inside. It was used for the storage of wine, oil, grain and other provisions. It was similar in height to a man.

Choose a word from the box below to complete these sentences:

1. Someone with a **cunning** plan would be quite _____ 
2. A **kind-hearted** person is likely to be _____
3. Anything **destructive** in the world would be _____
4. Someone suffering from **envy** would feel _____
5. A jar that was **immense** would be _____
6. If you were sent out for **provisions**, you'd buy _____

careless	friendly	heavy	pots	enormous
overjoyed	crafty	groceries	weak	generous
damaging	lonely	jealous	exhausted	heroic