

Meet the Greek Gods

High atop Mount Olympus, the gods and goddesses lived in beautiful palaces. Sometimes, the gods and goddesses, or deities, became involved in the lives of people on earth. Most of the time, however, they attended to their duties as Olympians.

The gods and goddesses possessed all of the admirable, and not so admirable, traits of mortals. Therefore, the Olympians could be unselfish or greedy, forgiving or judgmental, generous or cruel.



①

Zeus *god of the heavens and earth, ruler of weather, giver of justice*

Zeus ruled over all with his lightning and thunderbolts. His symbols were the sharp-eyed eagle and the mighty oak tree. Zeus was married to Hera although he had many affairs with goddesses and mortals.

②

Hera *goddess of marriage and married women*

Hera was the jealous wife of Zeus. As a mother, Hera chose the cow as her symbol. As a queen, she used the splendor of the peacock to remind mortals of her power.



③

Poseidon *god of the sea and earthquakes*

Poseidon was Zeus's brother who lived mainly in an underwater kingdom. Poseidon's symbols included a trident (a three-pronged spear), dolphins, and horses.



④

Hades *god of the underworld*

Hades could be identified by his bident (a two-pronged spear), Cerberus (his three-headed guard dog), or the cypress tree. Hades guarded all of the dead and was also in charge of the gems, minerals, and wealth of the underworld.

