

Greek Mythology

The Beginning and the End



Book List:

1. Homer's the Iliad and the Odyssey
 - Several abridged versions available
2. Percy Jackson's Greek Gods by Rick Riordan
3. Percy Jackson and the Olympians series by, Rick Riordan
4. Treasury of Greek Mythology by, Donna Jo Napoli
5. Olympians Graphic Novel series by, George O'Connor

Website References:

<https://www.greekmythology.com/>

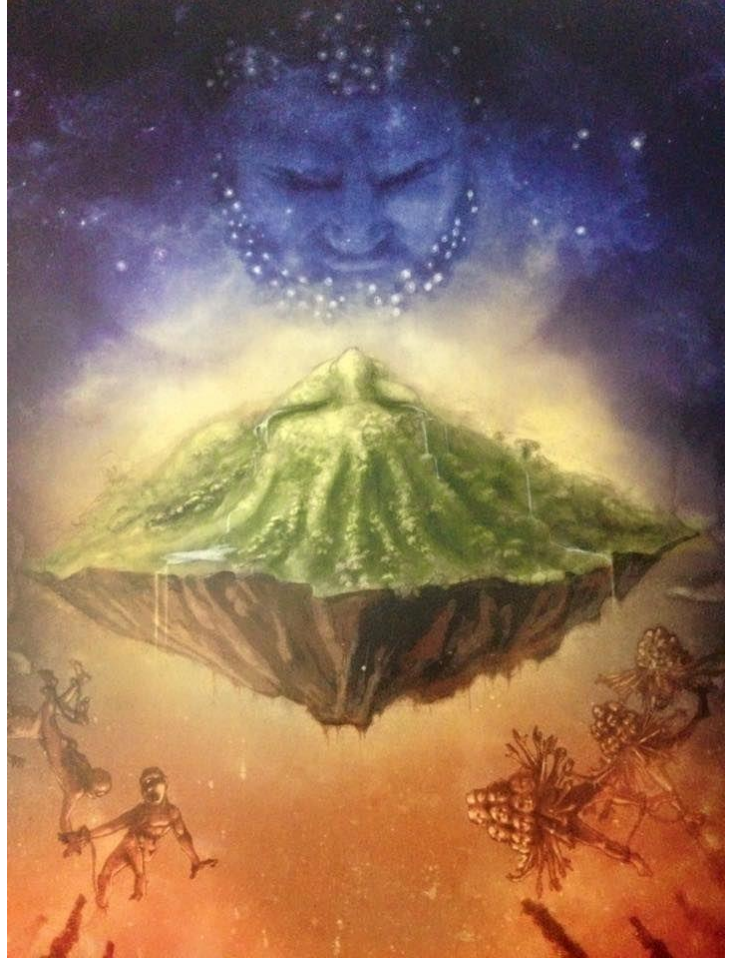
<https://www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/greek-mythology>

<https://aristotleguide.wordpress.com/2012/12/21/the-end-of-the-world-in-greek-mythology-1/>



The Beginning

First there was only Chaos, an emptiness. Somehow, Chaos gave birth to Gaia, the earth, and Tartarus, the world below, as well as Darkness, Night and Love. Gaia produced Uranus, the sky, and then married him. He was a cruel husband but with him Gaia had many children; the three one-eyed Cyclopes, the three Hundred-Handed Ones, and the twelve Titans. Gaia conspired with one of her children, Cronos, a Titan, to kill Uranus with a sickle. Cronos sliced his father and Uranus's blood dripped over the world. From the blood rose life including, Giants, Nymphs and even the goddess, Aphrodite.



Much later, the Titan, Prometheus shaped mortal man out of mud, and the goddess, Athena breathed life into his clay figure. To help humans survive, Prometheus gave them fire. This enraged Zeus, king of the gods, so he punished Prometheus and man. For Prometheus, Zeus had him chained to a rock and made an eagle eat his liver. It grew back each night, and each day the eagle would eat it again. For men, Zeus created Pandora, the first woman (possibly) and gave her a box filled with all sorts of horrors that she unleashed on the world.



The End

The “end of the world” has already happened in Greek Mythology. Zeus had grown angry with the wickedness of humans, and so with his brother, Poseidon, he created a hurricane to flood the world.

Only the tops of mountains were visible for nine days.

Two humans, King Deucalion Thessaly and his wife Pyrrha, survived. As soon as the waters receded, they made a sacrifice to the gods. Though Zeus had intended all humans to perish, the sacrifice pleased him and decided to grant Deucalion and Pyrrha a request. They requested more humans. Zeus frowned, but told them to walk throwing their “mother’s bones” (stones from mother Gaia, the earth) behind them, not looking back. They did so, and the stones that Deucalion threw formed into men, the stones Pyrrha threw turned into women.



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Discussion/ Essay Questions

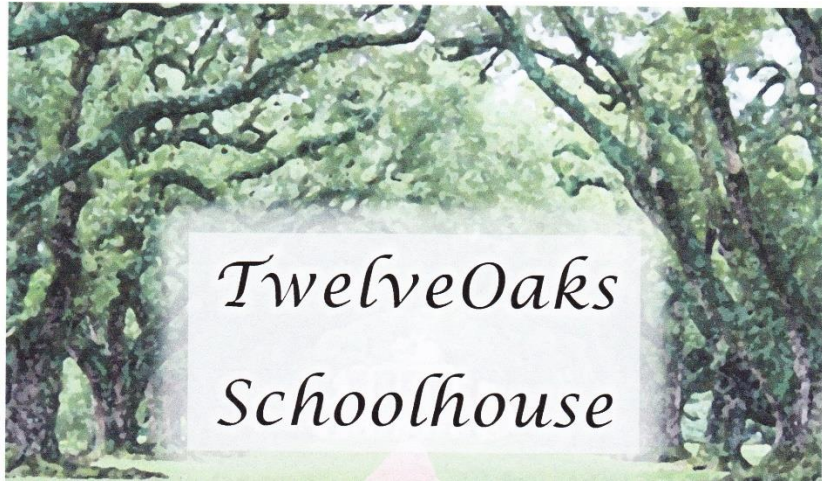
1. Who were the children of the earth and the sky?
2. What happened to the blood of Uranus?
3. Who made humans?
4. How was the earth and almost all of humanity destroyed?
5. How was the earth repopulated?

Extra Activities

1. Read the story of Pandora's box
2. Here's a video of the Pandora story -
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cqvbMr_2mQ&list=PLfifZOW9mo2T34IW5NE8bXfJoMEi54Wd&index=12
3. Learn how to start a campfire (grill hotdogs and smores)
4. Make a rock sculpture of a human
5. Study the Greek alphabet

The Greek Alphabet

Α	Β	Γ	Δ	Ε	Ζ
A	B	G	D	E	Z
Η	Θ	Ι	Κ	Λ	Μ
EE	TH	I	K	L	M
Ν	Ξ	Ο	Π	Ρ	Σ
N	KS	O	P	R	S
Τ	Υ	Φ	Χ	Ψ	Ω
T	U	PH	CH	PS	OH



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