

# Greek myths – teachers' notes

## Slide 1

This is intended to supplement the online learning, not replace the taught experience delivered by Cas.

I will give you information that you can build into this session and assist in the delivery of the Greek myth writing activity.

## Slide 2

Greek pottery gives us so many clues to the stories they tell.

This plate shows Achilles and Paris fighting to the death in the Trojan wars.

I am sure when you tell a joke or retell a story you forget details or get things in the wrong order.

Well this plate can help.

The river they are fighting by is called the Scamander. It had been so clogged with dead bodies the spirit of the river had begged for the fighting to stop as he had been choking!

When we see this we notice Achilles raising his leg. We know he is only vulnerable in his heel. His mother held him by it when she dipped him into the river Styx which gave him invulnerability, so the only injury which could kill him is a direct hit to the heel.

The swan isn't just there to fill up the plate.

Zeus was known to turn into different animals, a bull or a swan being his favourite.

When Paris is killed he cries out for revenge and Zeus hears him. The swan reminds you to mention this in your story.

It also shows you the armour they wore and how big the shields were.

So having pictures can help you remember the important bits and help you get them in the right order.

## Slide 3

Greek pottery gives us information that helps us imagine what it was like to live there at that time.

This is a picture of women weaving.

Even rich women would weave cloaks, bedspreads, hangings for walls and all sorts of clothing.

The looms are very big and take skill and effort to use well.

To make pictures is very hard indeed.

You will need to tell the story of Arachne now.

Point out how good she was at weaving and how the goddess tricks her into the contest.

It is a long story to remember; it will help if you had pictures in order to help.

We will write our own story. It will be done quickly and if you hate writing this will be brilliant, as we won't be using any words and only two names!

The way we do this is easy. It works very well and should be done quite quickly.

We are not looking for great works of art, just little quick drawings. I recommend no more than 2 mins per drawing.

## Slide 4

Let us begin!

Each child will need an A4 sheet of paper and a pencil.

They should divide and number their paper and put their name on the back.

## Slide 5

The first thing we will draw in box one is our person man or woman boy or girl (NOT A GOD).

As you can see here the drawings do not have to be wonderful.

This is a drawing of Athena and Poseidon. All male gods have beards. You can tell who it is by what they are holding: Poseidon his trident, Zeus lightning, Athena usually wears her battle helmet or carries an owl. The drawings are not the best so don't worry.

## Slide 6

In Box 1 draw your person. You have two minutes think of their name and write it next to them.

Put in as much detail as you want.

## Slide 7

In Box 2 you need to draw the location. If it's a temple put in big columns; if it is a volcano draw lava; mountains? I want goats and trees; if you set it in a stadium make it look like an arena; a shop make it look old and add Greek decorations.

## Slide 8

Number 3 is what skill or thing makes them special. I have done a loom for Arachne. You could do a cake if baking is a skill; notes if it's music or singing; shoes or clothes for designing; for make up or football do fluttering eyelashes or boots and a ball; if you are a warrior, muscles and spears.

If it's pie eating, a large table of pies.

## Slide 9

What is the test or challenge? Every Greek myth has a test or challenge in it. What is yours? This is the weaving competition, but it could be a bake off a design contest or talent show.

What is the test or competition for your person?

## Slide 10

The god or goddess that will help them or crush them like a worm!!!

Draw the god of the skill you have or use a ready made god or goddess. Add the thing that makes everyone know it's them. If they are made, up add "-ios " or "-a" to the name (Burpios god of food eating, or Clariansia, Goddess of expensive face cream); or Ares God of war or Zeus etc.

This is Athena (no owl), all battle helmet and VERY CROSS.

## Slide 11

What happens

Do you win the contest?

get blown up?

crushed like a worm?

does the world explode?

Are you made king/queen or president?

## Slide 12

The drawings can be used to write a longer story. They can be cut in half along the horizontal centre and then joined to make a long strip cartoon. This can be turned into a circle, which would look like a story vase.

Have fun.