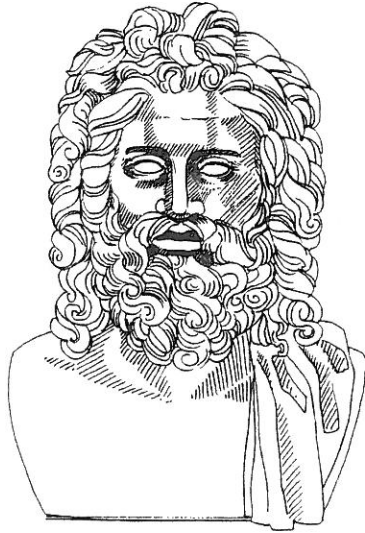


# Gods and Goddesses Flash Cards

Cut along the dotted lines (---). Fold along the solid line (—).

## Zeus

(zooz)



**Parents:** Cronus (CROH-nus) and Rhea (REE-uh)

**Married to:** Hera

**Home:** Mount Olympus

**Title:** All-powerful king of the gods, with special duties as god of the sky.

**Weapon of Choice:** Thunderbolt and lightning

**Sacred Symbols:** Oak tree and eagle

**Powers:** Punishing crime, avenging wrong, protecting faithful worshippers, and controlling all good and evil with justice

**Pastimes:** Breaking up fights between other gods, bickering with his wife, and wooing mortal women and goddesses

**Background:** He was a superior leader of the Olympian gods. He helped them to win a long, fierce war over the Titan gods, who were the Olympians' parents and relatives.

## Hera

(HEER-uh)



**Parents:** Cronus (CROH-nus) and Rhea (REE-uh)

**Married to:** Zeus

**Home:** Mount Olympus

**Title:** Queen of the gods; also goddess of women and motherhood

**Weapon of Choice:** Prophecy and trickery

**Sacred Symbols:** None

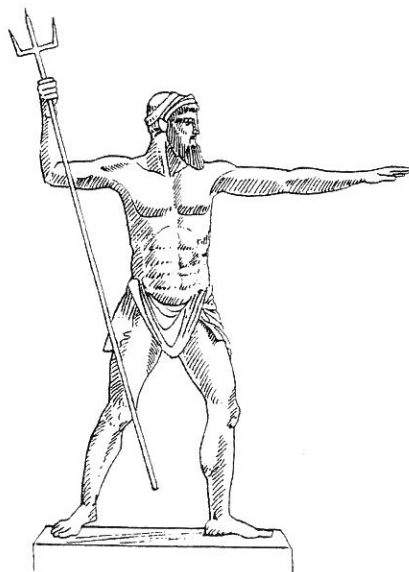
**Powers:** Commanding the winds and watching over women and mothers

**Pastimes:** Punishing the women wooed by Zeus (as well as their children), plotting against Zeus, and helping her favorite mortals

**Background:** This goddess feuded with her unfaithful husband, Zeus. She liked to favor certain mortals and helped them behind Zeus's back. He generally disapproved of such favoritism.

## Poseidon

(poh-SY-duhn)



**Parents:** Cronus (CROH-nus) and Rhea (REE-uh)

**Married to:** Amphitrite (am-fih-TRY-tee), a minor goddess

**Home:** Mount Olympus and all the waters of the earth

**Title:** God of the seas and navigation

**Weapon of Choice:** Trident (could cause storms, floods, and earthquakes to occur; springs to flow; and rivers to dry up)

**Sacred Symbols:** Pine tree and horse

**Powers:** Causing or calming earthquakes, storms, and other natural disasters

**Pastimes:** Inventing animals such as the horse and dolphin, feuding with Athena over control of Athens, and extending his domain with floods and storms.

**Background:** This god was moody and jealous of his more powerful brother, Zeus, chief god. He could reward a coastal city for decades with calm seas, favorable winds, and plentiful fishing. Then, for no reason, he would hurl a hurricane at it.

# Gods and Goddesses Flash Cards

Cut along the dotted lines (---). Fold along the solid line (—).

## Hades

(HAY-deez)



**Parents:** Cronus (CROH-nus) and Rhea (REE-uh)  
**Married to:** Persephone (per-SEF-oh-nee), daughter of Zeus and Demeter  
**Home:** the Underworld  
**Title:** King of the dead  
**Weapon of Choice:** Cap of invisibility  
**Sacred Symbols:** None  
**Powers:** Bringing about death and ruling the Underworld  
**Pastimes:** Helping people to die; listening to mourners weep; riding around in his golden chariot, pulled by four black horses  
**Background:** This god ruled the dead, who were believed to be mere shadows of their former selves on Earth. Those who had been good in life existed in the Underworld without discomfort. Wicked people were punished. But no one could leave this god's dark realm. Instead of worshipping him, the Greeks struck the ground with their hands and cursed whenever they used his name.

## Athena

(uh-THEE-nuh)



**Parents:** Zeus and Metis (MEE-tis), a minor goddess  
**Married to:** Single  
**Home:** Mount Olympus  
**Title:** Goddess of wisdom and all intellectual activities  
**Weapon of Choice:** Lance and shield  
**Sacred Symbols:** Owl and olive tree  
**Powers:** Giving men wisdom and protecting Athens  
**Pastimes:** Helping people invent useful items, like the plough, the spinning wheel, and the sail; and assisting Greek heroes, such as Odysseus  
**Background:** This cunning goddess could change into different shapes and disguises. She inherited these traits from her mother Metis, who was swallowed by Zeus when she was pregnant. Zeus could not prevent this goddess' birth, however: She gave him a splitting headache and was born from his head.

## Aphrodite

(af-roh-DY-tee)



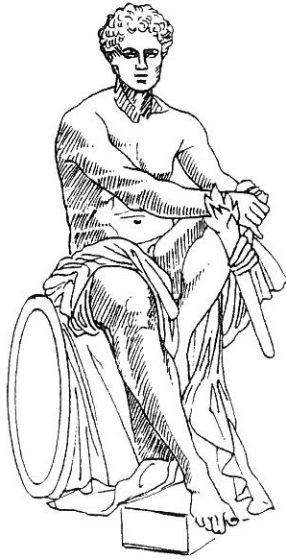
**Parents:** None  
**Married to:** Hephaestus  
**Home:** Mount Olympus  
**Title:** Goddess of love and beauty  
**Weapon of Choice:** None  
**Sacred Symbols:** Dove, apple, myrtle, and rose  
**Powers:** Making both gods and mortals fall in love with whomever she chose  
**Pastimes:** Finding lovers among both gods and mortals (she especially liked Ares)  
**Background:** This goddess was born from sea foam created by the blood of Uranus, slain father of the Titans. Wherever she walked, flowers bloomed and birds sang. She possessed a magic girdle that gave the wearer infinite grace and made everyone fall in love with him or her.

# Gods and Goddesses Flash Cards

Cut along the dotted lines (---). Fold along the solid line (—).

## Ares

(AIR-eez)



**Parents:** Zeus and Hera

**Married to:** Single

**Home:** Mount Olympus

**Title:** God of war

**Weapon of Choice:** Spear

**Sacred Symbols:** Spear and flaming torch

**Powers:** Waging war

**Pastimes:** Provoking conflict wherever possible and hanging out in Sparta and Thebes, cities where he was specially worshipped

**Background:** The other Olympian gods hated this god. He was a cold-blooded thug who enjoyed killing for its own sake. Only three gods would talk to him: Hades, whose kingdom of the dead was enlarged by his wars; Aphrodite, who was swayed by his good looks and fascinated by his cruelty; and Eris, his sister, the goddess of discord.

## Hephaestus

(hee-FEHS-tus)



**Parents:** Zeus and Hera

**Married to:** Aphrodite

**Home:** Mount Olympus, though he spent most of his time at his blacksmith forge in the crater of Mt. Aetna, a volcano in Sicily

**Title:** God of blacksmiths and craftsmen

**Weapon of Choice:** None, but he made all the weapons and armor of the gods

**Sacred Symbols:** Blacksmith's hammer and tongs

**Powers:** Creating magical, useful, and beautiful objects

**Pastimes:** Helping mortals to build things and giving blacksmiths magical powers

**Background:** This god was remarkably ugly. Because of this, he was rejected by his mother, Hera, who threw him out of heaven, breaking both his legs. He took revenge by building a beautiful chair that closed around her and wouldn't let her go. He finally released her only after she promised to accept him as a god.

## Apollo

(uh-PAH-loh)



**Parents:** Zeus and Leto (LEE-toh), a minor goddess

**Married to:** Single (Artemis' twin)

**Home:** Mount Olympus

**Title:** Sun god; also the god of medicine, music, poetry, dance, mathematics, herdsman, and prophecy

**Weapon of Choice:** Bow and arrow

**Sacred Symbols:** Laurel tree and the number seven

**Powers:** Making the sun rise, promoting learning, and healing people

**Pastimes:** Driving his fiery sun chariot across the daytime sky and wooing mortal women and goddesses

**Background:** This god embodied the Greek ideal: he was young, beautiful, wise, just, and moderate. He also created the Oracle at Delphi, where a priestess would make prophecies about the future.

# Gods and Goddesses Flash Cards

Cut along the dotted lines (---). Fold along the solid line (—).

## Artemis

(AHR-tuh-mihs)



**Parents:** Zeus and Leto (LEE-toh), a minor goddess

**Married to:** Single (Apollo's twin)

**Home:** Mount Olympus

**Title:** Goddess of the moon and the hunt

**Weapon of Choice:** Bow and arrow

**Sacred Symbols:** Lion, bear, wolf, and many wild birds

**Powers:** Protecting cities, wild animals, and women

**Pastimes:** Driving her silver chariot across the nighttime sky and running through the forest, followed by beautiful nymphs, called dryads (DRY-udz)

**Background:** This goddess punished hunters who killed more than they could eat (they would be thrown from their horses and eaten by wolves or they might get lost and starve or freeze to death). Fiercely independent, she rejected all suitors and never married.

## Demeter

(dee-MEE-tuhr)



**Parents:** Cronus (CROH-nus) and Rhea (REE-uh)

**Married to:** Single

**Home:** Mount Olympus

**Title:** Goddess of the harvest

**Weapon of Choice:** None

**Sacred Symbols:** None

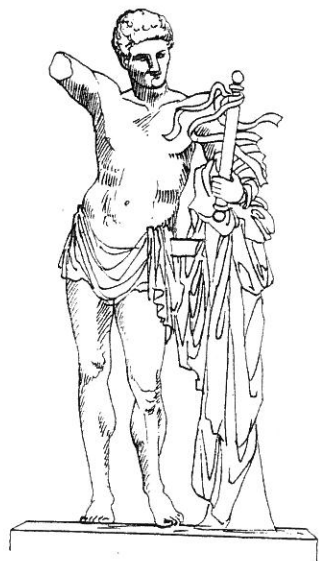
**Powers:** Controlling all harvests

**Pastimes:** Wandering the earth disguised as an old lady; she rewarded cities that were kind to her with good crops and punishing those that were cruel by destroying their harvests

**Background:** Her happiness brought good crops and prosperity; her anger caused bad crops and starvation. Her daughter, Persephone, was kidnapped by Hades and forced to be his wife. During the six months of the year Persephone remained with him, this goddess made the earth barren. During the six months Persephone visited her mother, the Earth blossomed again.

## Hermes

(HER-meez)



**Parents:** Zeus and Maia (MY-uh), a minor goddess

**Married to:** Single

**Home:** Mount Olympus

**Title:** Messenger of gods; also, god of dreams, commerce, treaties, travelers, inventions, science, arts, and oratory

**Weapon of Choice:** None (he carried a messenger's staff with a white ribbon that marked him as neutral in any conflict)

**Sacred Symbols:** The number four

**Powers:** Traveling anywhere instantly

**Pastimes:** Delivering messages for the gods and escorting all dead people to the Underworld

**Background:** This witty and cunning god invented sandals as well as a new musical instrument, the lyre. He also stole a herd of cattle from his half-brother, Apollo.

# Gods and Goddesses Flash Cards

Cut along the dotted lines (---). Fold along the solid line (—).

## Hestia

(HEHS-tee-uh)



**Parents:** Cronus (CROH-nus) and Rhea (REE-uh)

**Married to:** Single (older sister of Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Hades, and Demeter)

**Home:** Mount Olympus

**Title:** Goddess of the hearth and marriage

**Weapon of Choice:** None

**Sacred Symbols:** None

**Powers:** Protecting all orphan and homeless children and watching over the home

**Pastimes:** Creating happiness among families and staying out of the fights that other gods indulged in

**Background:** This goddess vowed never to marry in order to settle a dispute between two courtiers, Apollo and Poseidon.

## Dionysus

(dy-oh-NY-sus)



**Parents:** Zeus and Semele (SEM-uh-lee), a mortal

**Married to:** Single

**Home:** Mount Olympus

**Title:** God of wine and parties

**Weapon of Choice:** None

**Sacred Symbols:** Grapes, ivy, and the rose

**Powers:** Bringing great joy and productivity or misery and destruction to mortals

**Pastimes:** Attending the many parties and festivals held in his honor by mortals.

**Background:** This god loved mortals perhaps more than any of the other gods. He went far and wide teaching people how to grow grapes and make wine, an important part of Greek meals.

## The Titans



**Parents:** Uranus (YEW-ruh-nus) and Gaea (JEE-uh), the first god and goddess (the sky and the earth)

**Married to:** Each other

**Home:** Mount Orthys

**Powers:** Controlling the sea, sun, moon, harvests, justice, planets, and memories

**Background:** Among this group of gods, there were six brothers and five sisters. They were led by their brother Cronus and their sister Rhea, who were married to each other. Cronus overthrew his father Uranus as chief god and killed him. Before he died, Uranus predicted that the same would happen to Cronus. Cronus tried to prevent this by eating all of his children. But one of them, Zeus, was saved. Zeus eventually freed his brothers and sisters by kicking Cronus in the belly, forcing him to vomit them up. After that a great battle ensued, in which Zeus and his siblings finally won.