

KS2: Greek myths

The final page of these notes can be copied and given to students who you think may need additional support during the spotlight or to adult helpers.

This session takes place in one of the Museum's formal lecture theatres where the students view pictures projected on to a large screen. It uses question and answer to involve students in looking closely at pictures on Greek pots.

Before your visit

- This spotlight shows students how to recognise characters and stories from Greek myth and explores how the Greeks told stories using visual images. Look at some pictures of famous stories and characters in books or comics and explore how the children recognise them.
- Key names and vocabulary include:
 - visual
 - recognise
 - Herakles
 - Athena
 - Hermes
 - Perseus
 - Gorgon
 - Odysseus
 - Cyclops
- Use the Explore section of the British Museum website to find pictures of Greek pots: www.britishmuseum.org

During your visit

- There are numerous Greek pots with scenes from mythology in Rooms 13, 14 and 15.
- Room 69 has cases dedicated to Heracles, Theseus, the Trojan War and Odysseus

Greek myths continued...

Following up your session

- Practise identifying Greek characters on other examples of Greek and later art - use art books and websites to provide examples.
- Remind the pupils how recognise characters using visual clues. See if it works with other types of art, for example pictures of Bible stories and Christian saints, Hindu gods and mythology, Egyptian gods, comic book superheroes etc.
- Compare two pictures of the same story. Discuss what aspects the artist has chosen to focus on. Ask the pupils to think about why the artist might have done this. Show the pupils one picture of a story with which they are familiar - perhaps chosen from a book they have read. After discussing it, ask them to do their own picture showing a different interpretation of the story - discuss the different effect.
- Explore these two parts of the Museum's excellent Ancient Greece website on your whiteboard: http://www.ancientgreece.co.uk/gods/explore/exp_set.html and http://www.ancientgreece.co.uk/gods/challenge/cha_set.html

Curriculum links

History at Key Stage 2: Ancient Greece: *A study of the way of life, beliefs and achievements of the people living in Ancient Greece and the influence of their civilization on the world today.*

English: traditional stories, storyboarding and sequencing

In this workshop you will learn about:

- how to recognise characters in pictures of Greek stories
- how the ancient Greeks showed their myths in pictures

Key words

visual - to do with seeing

recognise

Herakles - a Greek hero

Athena - a Greek goddess

Hermes - a Greek god

Perseus - a Greek hero

gorgon - a Greek monster

Odysseus - a Greek hero

Cyclops - a Greek giant

What is a Greek myth?

- a myth is an old story handed down through time
- myths often explain things; they were usually important to the people who created them
- the Greeks decorated pottery and buildings with pictures from myths

Recognising characters

- You will learn how to recognise three characters by using visual clues such as what they carry or wear: Herakles, Athena, Hermes

Recognising stories

- You will then learn how to recognise stories in pictures.
- You do this by adding together the different characters you recognise and looking at what they are doing.
- You will see how this works with a picture of Perseus and the gorgon.

Telling stories with pictures

- The ancient Greeks did not use cartoon strips to tell stories.
- They liked to put things into a picture that belong in different parts of the story. The things remind you of what has happened before and what will happen after the scene you are looking at.
- You will see how this works with a picture of Odysseus and the Cyclops.