

# CYCLOPAEDIA 26 – GRECO-ROMAN MYTHOLOGY

BY T.R. KNIGHT (INNROADS MINISTRIES \* ARTICLE SERIES)

## OVERVIEW

Most likely, you studied Classical Mythology, also called Greco-Roman Mythology, in school. You read about the various Greek and Roman gods that inspired storytellers and poets to write some of the great epics and tragedies. These myths began as oral traditions, then were later compiled into Greek and Latin writings.

These myths related the Greek and Roman religions, concerned with the actions of gods, supernatural creatures, and the heroes influenced by the gods. The most famous of these were written by Homer, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.

The Romans adapted the myths of the Greeks, importing many into their own legends and stories, creating counterparts. Thus, you find Ares mirrored in Mars as the war god, and many gods and demigods with matching legends but different names.

Cinema latched onto these myths as storylines because of their fantastic tales, epic settings, and over-the-top heroes. The films were so popular, a cheaper subgenre emerged called peplum, or more commonly called sword-and-sandal, which were a mix of lower budget Biblical or Mythology based films.

Classical Mythology still fascinates us today, spawning new book series, movies of epic heroes, and games that let us step into the role of mythical heroes and gods. These myths have been part of our modern culture for so long, we associate with them strongly.

## CREATURES AND MONSTERS OF MYTHOLOGY

Greco-Roman Mythology depicts more than just gods and demi-gods. There is an entire ecosystem of unique creatures and monsters. Many of them exist in similar forms, sometimes with different names, in other mythologies and folklore.

- Argus
- Centaur
- Cerberus
- Cetus
- Chimera
- Colchian Dragon
- Cyclops
- Echidna
- Griffin
- Harpy
- Hecatoncheires
- Lamia
- Lernaean Hydra
- Medusa
- Minotaur
- Myrmekes Indikoi
- Pegasus
- Satyr
- Scylla
- Sphinx
- Triton
- Typhon

Following are sources of information pertaining to Greco-Roman Mythology to assist prospective game masters, game designers, writers, and storytellers in knowing where to start their research.

## ARTICLES

### **Chimeric creatures in Greek mythology and reflections in science**

By Bazopoulou-Kyrkanidou, Euterpe

Source: American Journal of Medical Genetics, v100 n1 (15 April 2001): 66-80

### **Pagan mythology in the Christian Empire**

By Liebeschuetz, Wolfgang

Source: International Journal of the Classical Tradition, v2 n2 (199509): 193-208

### **Relics and Remains in an Ancient Greek World full of Anthropomorphic Gods**

By Osborne, Robin

Source: Past and Present, 206, no. S5 (2010): 56-72

## BOOKS

### ***The Aeneid***

By Virgil

### ***American Gods***

By Gaiman, Neil

### ***Bulfinch's Mythology***

By Bulfinch, Thomas

### ***The Centaur***

By Updike, John

### ***Child's Introduction to Greek Mythology: The Stories of the Gods, Goddesses, Heroes, Monsters, and Other Mythical Creatures***

By Alexander, Heather and Hamilton, Meredith

### ***The Complete World of Greek Mythology***

By Buxton, Richard

### ***D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths***

By Parin d'Aulaire, Ingri and Edgar

### ***Gods Behaving Badly***

By Phillips, Marie

### ***Greek Mythology: Greek Gods - Greek Heroes - Popular Myths - Mythical Creatures (Volume 1)***

By Bullock, Herman

### ***Greek Religion***

By Burkert, Walter

### ***The Heroes of Olympus***

By Riordan, Rick

### ***The Iliad***

By Homer

### ***Illium***

By Simmons, Dan

### ***The Infinities***

By Banville, John

### ***The King Must Die***

By Ranault, Mary

### ***The Lost Books of the Odyssey***

By Mason, Zachary

### ***The Marriage of Cadmus and Harmony***

By Calasso, Roberto

### ***Metamorphoses***

By Ovid

### ***The Minotaur Takes a Cigarette Break***

By Sherrill, Steven

### ***Myth and Philosophy: A Contest of Truths***

By Hatab, Lawrence J.

### ***Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes***

By Hamilton, Edith

### ***The Odyssey***

By Homer

***Pandora***

By Hennessy, Carolyn

***The Penelopiad***

By Atwood, Margaret

***The Penguin Dictionary of Classical Mythology***

By Grimal, Pierre

***Percy Jackson and the Olympians***

By Riordan, Rick

***Ransom***

By Malouf, David

***Roman Mythology: A Captivating Guide to Roman Gods, Goddesses, and Mythological Creatures***

By Clayton, Matt

***Soldier of the Mist***

By Wolfe, Gene

***The Song of Achilles***

By Miller, Madeline

***Theogony***

By Hesiod

***Till We Have Faces***

By Lewis, C.S.

***Weight: The Myth of Atlas and Heracles***

By Winterson, Jeanette

## GAMES

*Age of Mythology* - Video Game

*Age of Mythology: The Board Game* - Tabletop Game

*Agon* - RPG

*Argonauts* - Tabletop Game

*Battle for Olympus* - Tabletop Game

*By Jove* - Tabletop Game

*Cyclades* - Tabletop Game

*Deus* - Tabletop Game

*Elysium* - Tabletop Game

*God of War* - Video Game

*GURPS Greece* - RPG

*GURPS Imperial Rome* - RPG

*Hellas* - Tabletop Game

*Hellas: Worlds of Sun and Stone* - RPG

*Hera and Zeus* - Tabletop Game

*High Heavens* - Tabletop Game

*Immortal* - Tabletop Game

*Kid Icarus* - Video Game

*Mythic Battles* - Tabletop Game

*Mythology* - Tabletop Game

*Odyssey: Wrath of Poseidon* - Tabletop Game

*Olympus* - Tabletop Game

*Rise of the Argonauts* - Video Game

*Risk: Godstorm* - Tabletop Game

*Santorina* - Tabletop Game

*Titan Quest* - Video Game

*Wrath of the Gods* - Video Game

*Zeus: Master of Olympus* - Video Game

## CINEMA

*300*

*Alexander*

*American Gods* - TV

*Clash of the Titans*

*Cupid* - TV

*Helen of Troy* - TV Miniseries

*Hercules*

*Hercules in New York*

*Hercules: The Animated Series* - TV

*Hercules: The Legendary Journeys* - TV

*Immortals*

*Jason of the Argonauts*

*The Legend of Hercules*

*Minotaur, the Wild Beast of Crete*

*Percy Jackson & The Lightning Thief*

*The Odyssey* - TV Miniseries  
*The Three Stooges Meet Hercules*  
*Troy*  
*Tiresia*  
*Valentine* - TV  
*Walt Disney Hercules*  
*Wonder Woman*  
*Wrath of the Titans*  
*Xena: The Warrior Princess* - TV  
*Young Hercules* - TV

Hades/Pluto  
Helios/Sol  
Hephaistos/Vulcan  
Hera/Juno  
Hermes/Mercury  
Hestia/Vesta  
Horai/Horae  
Kronos/Saturn  
Moirae/Parcae  
Pan/Faunus  
Persephone/Proserpina  
Poseidon/Neptune  
Selene/Luna  
Tyche/Fortuna  
Zeus/Jupiter

## LOCATIONS

The Acropolis Museum  
<http://www.theacropolismuseum.gr/en/>

British Museum  
[https://www.britishmuseum.org/about\\_us/departments/greece\\_and\\_rome.aspx](https://www.britishmuseum.org/about_us/departments/greece_and_rome.aspx)

Naples Archaeological Museum  
<https://www.museoarcheologiconapoli.it/en/>

National Archaeological Museum  
<http://www.namuseum.gr/>

## PEOPLE

(Well...Greek/Roman gods actually)  
Aphrodite/Venus  
Apollo/Apollo  
Ares/Mars  
Artemis/Diana  
Athena/Minerva  
Charites/Gratiae  
Demeter/Ceres  
Erinyes/Furiae  
Eris/Discordia  
Eros/Cupid

(Greek/Roman Demigods)  
Achilles  
Aeacus  
Aeneas  
Amphion  
Arcas  
Asclepius  
Bellerophon  
Dardanus  
Dionysus/Bacchus  
Epaphus  
Harmonia  
Heracles/Hercules  
Helen of Troy  
Hippolyta  
Iasus  
Memnon  
Orion  
Orpheus  
Penthesilea  
Perseus  
Polydeuces/Pollux  
/Romulus and Remus  
Theseus  
Tityos/Turnus  
Zethes  
Zethus