

Greek Mythology– Knowledge Organiser

Name: _____

Titans	Stories
Gaia – original earth mother of 1 st generation Titans.	Gave birth to Uranus and then created the first generation of Titans. Created a bladed sickle and asked Chronos to castrate Uranus as punishment for putting their first 3 children in Tartarus (in Hell).
Uranus – original sky father of 1 st generation Titans.	Created by Gaia and fathered 1st generation of 12 Titans. Imprisoned 3 youngest in Tartarus. Castrated by his son Chronos. Propheted Chronos would be overthrown by his own son, like he had been.
Chronos – first son of 2 nd generation Titans, became ruler.	Chronos threw body parts of his Father in the sea, from which Aphrodite was born. Ruled with his sister Rhea as King and Queen. Swallowed all his children to prevent prophecy. Rhea hid last son Zeus in Crete, who eventually overthrew Chronos. Was tricked into swallowing a stone and into drinking liquid that forced him to vomit back his own swallowed children.
Atlas – son of Iapetus and Clymene.	Sided against the Olympians in their war against the Titans. Punished by Zeus to hold up the sky for all eternity on his shoulders.
Prometheus – brother of Atlas and champion of mankind.	Sided with Zeus and the Olympians in the war and initially avoided punishment. During the Trick at Mecone, convinced Zeus into eating bones wrapped in fat, which became the original sacrifice to the Gods. Zeus stole fire from Mankind and Prometheus gave it back. Punished by Zeus. Chained to a rock for eternity where an Eagle would eat his liver every day after it regenerated.
Epimetheus – foolish brother of Prometheus and Atlas,	Brother of Prometheus & lacked intelligence. Gave positive traits to all the animals, so Prometheus tried to help mankind by giving them fire and civilisation. Received Pandora as a gift from the Gods. She was created to punish mankind by opening the jar containing all the evil in the world.

Olympians	Stories
Zeus – Vengeful King of the Gods. God of the sky and thunder.	Led the overthrow of the Titans & crowned as ruler of sky. Punished Prometheus. Athena born from his head. Had children with various wives, including sisters. Disguised himself as many different animals and had affairs with numerous mortals.
Poseidon – God of the Seas. Violent and ill-tempered.	Rides a chariot and wields a trident, with which he created first horse. Built walls of Troy but fought on the Greek side to spite the King, who never paid him. Competed with Athena for Athens and lost.
Hera – Goddess of Marriage.	Tricked by Zeus into marriage, by taking advantage of her love for animals. Tried to rebel against him by having him tied up, but later turned her wrath on Zeus's lovers. Tricked Hercules to kill his own children.
Hades – God of the Underworld.	Wore a helmet of invisibility. Abducted Persephone (Demeter's daughter) because he fell in love with her. Persephone spent a third of the year in Hades, which corresponds with Winter.
Demeter – Goddess of the Harvest, the cycle of life.	Fell in love with a mortal. Poseidon forced himself on her, as did Zeus. As a result, gave birth to Persephone. Attempted to rescue Persephone from Hades, which created the seasons.
Hephestus – Blacksmith God.	Zeus/Hera (in some stories) threw him from Olympus, which maimed him. Got revenge on his mother by making a Golden throne which trapped Hera with cords invisible to all but Hephaestus. Created masterworks from gold. Married to Aphrodite, who had an affair with Ares. Hephaestus caught them in a net allowing others to laugh at their shame.
Artemis – Goddess of the hunt and the moon	She guarded her chastity through her whole life. Actaeon the hunter saw her bathing naked. She transformed him into a stag and set his hounds against him. She killed her only potential lover Orion for trying to remove her clothes.
Athena – Goddess of wisdom, war and crafts.	Accidentally killed her best friend Pallas and added the two names together. Never swayed by love or passion. She competed with Poseidon to be patron of Athens. He created a stream in the middle of the city, whilst she planted an olive tree, which the King judged as superior. She competed with Arachne at weaving and turned her into a spider. She also became the main helper of heroes.
Aphrodite – The Goddess of love and beauty.	Created from the foam that rose when Uranus's body parts fell into the sea. The object of desire of all the other Gods. Zeus married her to Hephestus. She had affairs with Ares, Poseidon and Hermes. Mortals fell in love with her.
Hermes – the messenger God.	Only god capable of crossing boundary between living and dead and ushered souls to the underworld. Invented the lyre, by scooping the flesh from a tortoise shell, on day of his birth, then stole Apollo's cattle. Hermes gave him the lyre to appease his anger and they became close friends forever.
Apollo – god of music, sun, poetry & truth.	His mother Leto was banished by the dragon Python under orders from Hera. Artemis helped her mother to give birth to him. He sought revenge on the Python and wounded it with his arrows. It escaped to Delphi, where Apollo stained the temple with its blood. He claimed the temple in his name. Became the God of music and competed with Pan in a musical contest. King Midas, who voted for Pan, was given ass's ears as a result.
Dionysus – god of wine, madness and theatre.	Only god with a mortal parent. Zeus made an oath that resulted in Semele (Mother) being burnt before Dionysus was born. Zeus kept him in his thigh as a fetus until he was ready to be born. Had wild followers (Maenads) and spread ecstasy and madness through the world with wine and dance.

Heroes	Stories
Perseus – son of Zeus and Danae. Slayed the Medusa, assisted by Athena.	Grandfather was King Acrisius. The oracle predicted his grandson (Perseus) would kill him. Acrisius locked Perseus and Danae in a chest and floated them to sea. A fisherman Dictys took them in and looked after them. Polydectes ruled the island and wanted to marry Danae, but wanted to get rid of Perseus. He announced the plan to marry Danae and that every guest should have gift, but Perseus had nothing to give. Polydectes asked Perseus to slay the Gorgon Medusa and bring back her head as a gift and he agreed. Perseus received a mirror-like shield for his journey, to avoid looking into the Gorgon's eyes, which turned men into stone.
Theseus – Son of King Aegeus of Athens. Killed the Minotaur.	In revenge for his son's death, King Minos demanded 7 Athenian youths or maidens every 9 th year to be sacrificed by the minotaur. Theseus agreed to go and, with the help of Ariadne, kill the minotaur, which was locked in the Cretan labyrinth (built by Daedalus). He promised his Father that, on the journey home, he would fly a white flag, instead of the usual black, to display his success, but he forgot this promise and Aegeus jumped from the Acropolis.
Heracles – Cursed by Hera. Son of Zeus and Alcmene. Gained immortal glory by completing 12 labours.	Zeus disguised himself as Alcmene's husband to get her in bed. Brought by Athena to Hera (in spite of her hatred) and fed by her. Her milk gave him superhuman powers, but he suckled so strongly Hera pushed him away and her milk sprayed the sky, which created the stars. Originally sent to look after cattle by his Father. Was visited by Vice and Virtue and chose a life of difficult, but glorious virtue. Killed his own children by Megara, daughter of King Creon of Thebes. Fled to oracle of Delphi, which was controlled by Hera, who directed him to serve King Eurystheus. He gave him 10 labours, which Heracles completed, but cheated him by adding two more. 1) Slay the Nemean Lion; 2) Slay the nine-headed Hydra; 3) Capture the Golden Hind of Artemis; 4) Capture the Erymanthian boar; 5) Clean the Augean stables in a day; 6) Capture the Cretan Bull; 9) Steal the Mares of Diomedes; 10) Obtain girl of Hippolyta; 11) Obtain the cattle of the monster Geryon; 12) Steal the apples of the Hesperides; 12) Capture and bring back Cerberus.

Mortals	Stories
Pandora	First human created by Hephestus and Athena, under orders from Zeus. She was created from the earth, as punishment for Prometheus's theft of the secret of fire. All gods gave her seductive gifts, providing the origin of her name. She opened the jar containing all of the evils of humanity.
Daedalus	Daedalus was the master craftsman and architect, who created the labyrinth in which the Minotaur was kept. He was the father of Icarus, who flew too close to the sun with wings made by his Father. Both of his intricate creations caused more harm than good.
Ariadne	The daughter of Minos and Pasiphae, she was placed in charge of the labyrinth. She eventually assisted Theseus in his fight with the Minotaur. In some stories, she became the bride of Dionysus.
Sisyphus	Was the original King of Corinth and successfully promoted trade and navigation, but was greedy and deceitful. He violated <i>xenia</i> , by killing travellers and guests which attracted the anger of Zeus. His punishment was to roll a huge boulder, for all eternity, up a steep hill, which would fall back down once at the top. The punishment stems from his <i>hubristic</i> belief that his crafty intelligence surpassed Zeus'.

Vocabulary		Vocabular y	
Audacious	Willing to take risks.	Oppressive	Harsh, brutal treatment.
Betrayal	The act of breaking trust.	Perilous	Extreme danger
Courageous	Brave; not scared.	Repulsive	Creating extreme disgust.
Cunning	Good at sneaky behaviour.	Tyrannical	Cruel use of power.
Deceptive	Giving an impression that is not true/accurate.	Valiant	Showing bravery / determination.
Devious	Good at using immoral actions to achieve goals.	Vanquish	To defeat completely.
Envious	Longing for someone else's things or life.	Vengeful	Seeking to harm in return for previous harm received
Hubristic	Extreme confidence / pride.	Vindictive	A strong and unreasonable desire for revenge.
Labyrinth	Confusing network of paths.	Wrath	Extreme anger
Malicious	Intending to do harm	Zealous	Showing great enthusiasm for a cause.

Themes	Definitions
Wrath of the Gods	Whilst often demonstrating power and wisdom, the Gods were also mean-spirited, spiteful and vengeful.
Death and the Underworld	Hades and Persephone were the rulers of the underworld, which features in many several quest stories from mythology.
Tricks and transformations	Many monsters are transformed by the Gods as part of their vengeance, while several of the Gods themselves were capable of changing shape in order to carry out their actions.
Quests and battles	Quest stories are often long and difficult and prove to be the ways in which heroes prove themselves to be saviours.
Prophecy and curses	Prophecies seem to predict the futures of many characters in mythology, which gives a sense of the tragic view of fate as being out of our control. Curses are often involved in the punishment of mortals.
Loyalty, trust and betrayal	A central concern of the Gods; one of the main drivers of conflict between Gods themselves and between the Gods and mankind. Loyalty is highly prized and celebrated by the Gods.