

Greek Mythology

The Myth of Narcissus

Zeus, the supreme god, persuaded Echo to distract his wife, Hera, by chattering incessantly. He did this so that Hera could not keep track of Zeus, leaving him free to chase other women. However, when Hera figured out the plan, she was so enraged that she took away Echo's voice, leaving her with only the ability to repeat the final word of every message she heard. When Echo saw the extremely handsome but vain Narcissus, she fell deeply in love with him. Of course, she could not tell him of her love, but she followed him everywhere, gazing at him lovingly until he haughtily rejected her. Poor Echo hid in a cave and wasted away until only her voice remained. Then the goddess Nemesis decided to punish Narcissus by making him fall hopelessly in love with his own face as he saw it reflected in a pool. He gazed in fascination, unable to tear himself away from his image, until he gradually wasted away. In the spot where he had sat grew a beautiful yellow flower, which even to this day bears the name narcissus.



1. What did Zeus ask Echo to do? _____

2. Why did he ask her to do this? _____

3. What was Hera's reaction? _____

4. Why did Echo fall in love with Narcissus? _____

5. What was Narcissus's reaction to Echo? _____

6. What did Nemesis do to Narcissus? _____

7. What happened to Echo in the end? _____

8. What happened to Narcissus in the end? _____
