

“Mythology and Gods”
6th Grade History/Social Science and Visual Arts

Background Information:

The Greeks told many stories about how the actions of gods and goddesses affected the lives of people. These stories are called myths. The word “myth” derives from the ancient Greek word *muthos* which originally meant ‘utterance’ and came to mean ‘a spoken or written story’. The Greek word *muthologia* meant ‘talking about, or retelling stories’. Myths were an important part of the everyday practice of Greek religion. They offered an explanation of how things in nature or how human events came to be. They also described the personalities and roles of the many gods and goddesses in which the Greeks believed.

History/Social Science Content Standards

World History and Geography: Ancient Civilizations

6.4 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of Greece.

4. Explain the significance of Greek mythology to the everyday life of people in the region and how Greek literature continues to permeate our literature and language today, drawing from Greek mythology and epics, such as Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey, and from Aesop’s Fables.

Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards

Visual Arts 1.0 – Artistic Perception

Students perceive and respond to works of art, objects in nature, events, and the environment. They also use the vocabulary of the visual arts to express their observations.

1.4 Describe how balance is effectively used in a work of art (e.g. symmetrical, asymmetrical, radial).

Visual Arts 2.0 – Creative Expression

Students apply artistic processes and skills, using a variety of media to communicate meaning and intent in original works of art.

2.5 Select specific media and processes to express moods, feelings, themes, or ideas.