

GREEK NAME	ROMAN NAME	CHARACTERISTICS
Artemis [AR-tem-is]	Diana [die-AN-uh]	Apollo's twin sister. Goddess of hunting and of wild things. She is associated with the moon. She is sometimes called "Cynthia."
Ares [AIR-eez]	Mars [MARZ]	Son of Zeus. Terrible god of war.
Hephaestus [hee-FES-tuhs]	Vulcan [VUL-kan]	Son of Zeus and Hera, the lame blacksmith god of fire.
Aphrodite [af-roh-DIE-tee]	Venus [VEE-nuhs]	The wife of Hephaestus, she is the goddess of love and beauty. She is said to have been born of the sea foam. Her son, Eros [AIR-ohss] (the Roman Cupid [KUE-pid]), shoots arrows which cause men and women to fall in love. Another son, Aeneas [ee-NEE-uhs], is a mortal man, considered to be the ancestor of the Romans.
Hermes [HER-meez]	Mercury [MER-cure-ee]	Son of Zeus. Messenger of the gods, he is also the god of science and invention.
Hestia [HES-tee-uh]	Vesta [VES-tuh]	Zeus's sister. Goddess of the hearth and home.
Demeter [dee-MEE-ter]	Ceres [SEER-eez]	Zeus's sister. She is the very important goddess of grain and agriculture. She is a kind of bond between heaven and earth.

These are the "Big Twelve," six gods and six goddesses, the top rank of the Olympians. Their traits and characters are as clear and human as those of mortal men and women.

Along with the twelve Olympians there were other important gods. Zeus's other brother, **Hades** [HAY-deez], more commonly known by his Roman name of **Pluto** [PLOO-toh], was lord of the dead and the underworld (also called "Hades") where the dead go. As we might expect, he was a dim, shadowy figure. There was also the great earth god **Pan**, god of woods and fields, who was half man (his upper part) and half goat (his lower part). Pan often played his "pipes," a kind of flute made from several tubes of reeds bound together. He was not often seen, but when he played on his pipes the woods were full of rather eerie music, which, especially at twilight, often scared people just to hear it, causing them to *panic*, as we say. The word *panic* comes from the name *Pan*.