

Teacher's Guide for
A TO ZEUS: Greek Mythology

—About the performance—

A to Zeus: Greek Mythology introduces students to Ancient Greece and some of her more famous myths through storytelling, performance, and audience participation. Costumes, props, pictures, and a large map line the stage. Some students become characters in the stories and participate in a game. They will hear about several Greek gods and goddesses; such as, Zeus, Athena, and Apollo. Students will also hear about several heroes and monsters; such as, Theseus and the Minotaur, and Perseus and Medusa.

—About Cwerks, inc.—

Cwerks was founded in 1995 and brings live theater to all ages, in the form of community performances; school assemblies; classes, workshops, and directed plays; and original scripts. The directors, Christopher and Marian Scadden have over 50 years combined theater experience. Christopher has a B.A. in Theatre Arts and M.S. in Bilingual Education; Marian has a B.A. in Children's Theatre and over 25 years experience in Mime. They have directed, performed and taught with numerous amateur and professional theater groups; such as Park City Shakespeare Festival, Utah; Great American Melodrama, California; Young Audiences of Kern County, California; Children's Educational Theatre, Oregon; and many City Recreation Departments and School Districts.

—Books about mythology, Greece, and performing—

Note: Greek mythology can be intense and risqué. Make book selections carefully.

THE USBORNE BOOK OF GREEK AND NORSE LEGENDS, illustrated by Rodney Matthews
EYEWITNESS BOOKS, ANCIENT GREECE
PLAYS, THE DRAMA MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, Kalmbach Publishing
(playsmag.com)
MAKE BELIEVE, A BOOK OF COSTUME AND FANTASY, Klutz Press
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT, Dorling Kindersley Picturepedia

—People and monsters mentioned in the program—

Note: The Roman names are in parenthesis

Zeus: (Jupiter) became king of the gods when he overcame his father Cronus; hurled thunderbolts when angry

Apollo: Sun god, in charge of the sun's movement across the sky; patron of the Arts; twin brother of Artemis

Artemis: (Diana) Moon goddess, in charge of movement of the moon across the sky; protector of small children and animals; twin sister of Apollo.

Poseidon: (Neptune) God of the Oceans; controlled storms, sea-monsters, and earthquakes.

Demeter: (Ceres) Goddess of the earth and harvests

Cronus: (Saturn) rebelled against his father Uranus and became king of the gods; swallowed all his children except for Zeus.

Athena: (Minerva) goddess of wisdom and war; inventor of flute; owl is her bird.

Theseus: defeated the Minotaur.

King Minos: king of Crete.

Perseus: defeated Medusa.

Heracles: (Hercules) son of Zeus; defeated many monsters.

Prometheus: brother of Zeus; gave fire to mankind.

Pygmalion: sculptor who fell in love with a statue he created.

Hermes: (Mercury) son of Zeus; messenger of the gods.

Persephone: (Persephone) daughter of Demeter; helped her mother care for harvests and growing things; carried off by Pluto to become his wife.

Minotaur: monster defeated by Theseus; body of man, head of bull; ate human flesh.

Medusa: monster with serpents for hair; she turned humans into stone; defeated by Perseus.

—Possible follow-up activities—

- Read other mythologies: Roman, Norse, even American Tall Tales.
- Read Aesop's fables. (Aesop was a Greek slave, earning his freedom through his stories)
- Act out a myth or fable, creating props and costumes from simple materials. Make the performance different by using modern language or by singing some or all of the story, like a musical or opera.
- Draw a picture from a myth or fable.
- Using a map of Ancient Greece, locate where some of the stories took place.
- Read about the real King Minos and his palace Knossos.
- Create a crossword or word search puzzle.
- Create a large mural on a sheet using fabric markers. The mural can be about a story or, like the bull-leaping picture from the program, can be something real; such as, something your class does. Or create smaller murals with each person getting a piece of a sheet.
- Use square pieces of cloth and buttons on safety pins to create chitons which they wore in Ancient Greece. Have a fashion show.
- Build an Ancient Greek city or Knossos out of large pieces of cardboard. Wear chitons. Have a "Day in Ancient Greece" with sculptors, performers, storytellers, people at market, etc.

—Let us hear from you—

Questions, comments, concerns, suggestions, and accolades all cheerfully accepted, as are children's pictures and notes:

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If you care to write a testimonial that we can include on our website (www.cwerks.com) or with our promotional packets, please attach a note indicating this.



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*Live theatre
where people interAct*