

The Olympian Gods

Mythology Crash Course



Session Overview

- Introducing the Gods
- Characteristics of the Olympians
- The Olympians in Literature
- Case Studies:
 - Aphrodite in mythology



Key Words

- **Epithet:** a description used to regularly characterise a person or place (typically used in literature)
- **Cult Title:** a description used to regularly characterise
- **Theogony:** a story explaining the origins of the Gods
- **Cosmogony:** a story/theory explaining the origins of the universe

Who are the Olympians?

- The 12 main Gods worshipped in Ancient Greece (and Rome)
- The major deities of Ancient Greek Religion
- Sometimes called the **Pantheon**
- The Greek 'pan' (all) + 'theos' (gods)
- They take their name Olympians from their mountain home: **Mt. Olympus**



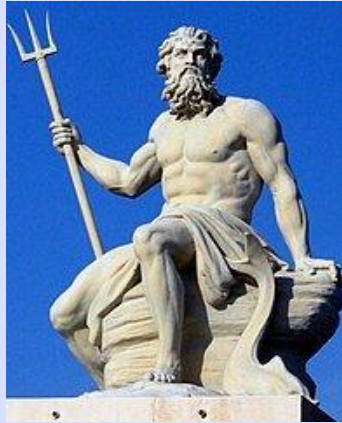
Meet the Olympians



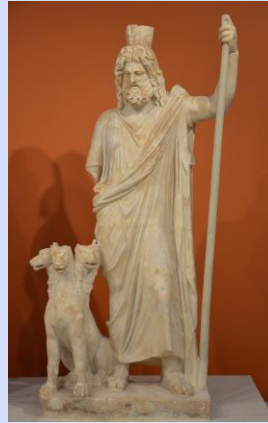
Zeus



Poseidon



Hades



Ares



Apollo



Hephaestus



Hera



Athena



Demeter



Aphrodite



Artemis



Hestia



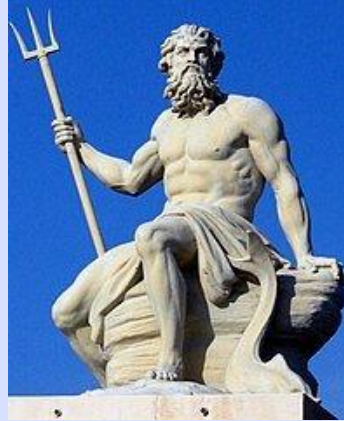
Meet the Pantheon



Jupiter



Neptune



Pluto



Mars



Apollo



Vulcan



Juno



Minerva



Ceres



Venus



Diana



Vesta



The Extras



Dionysus



Hermes

The Extras



Bacchus



Mercury

The origins of the Olympians in Literature

- Hesiod's *Theogony*
- The Homeric Hymns
- Homer's *Iliad*
- Plato's *Symposium*



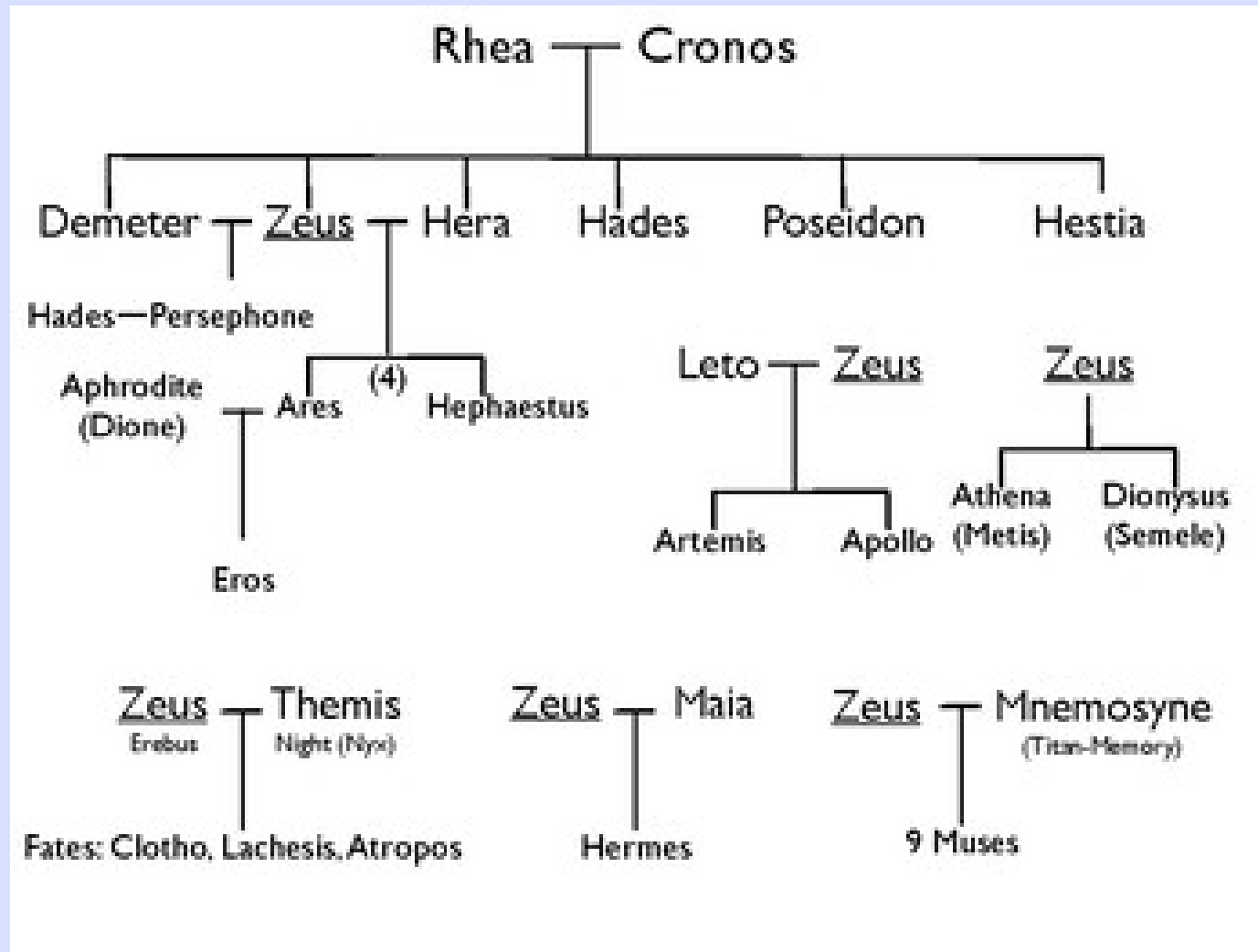


Hesiod's *Theogony*

"So said the ready-voiced daughters of great Zeus, and they plucked and gave me a rod, a shoot of sturdy laurel, a marvellous thing, and breathed into me a divine voice to celebrate things that shall be and things there were aforesaid; and they bade me sing of the race of the blessed gods that are eternally, but ever to sing of themselves both first and last."

Hesiod *Theogony* 1.29

Hesiod's *Theogony*



The origins of Aphrodite

- *Aphrodite Ourania*
- *Aphrodite Pandemos*
- *Aphrodite Cythaera*

