

L.I. I know when, where and how myths and legends beggn.

Lesson 1: When and How

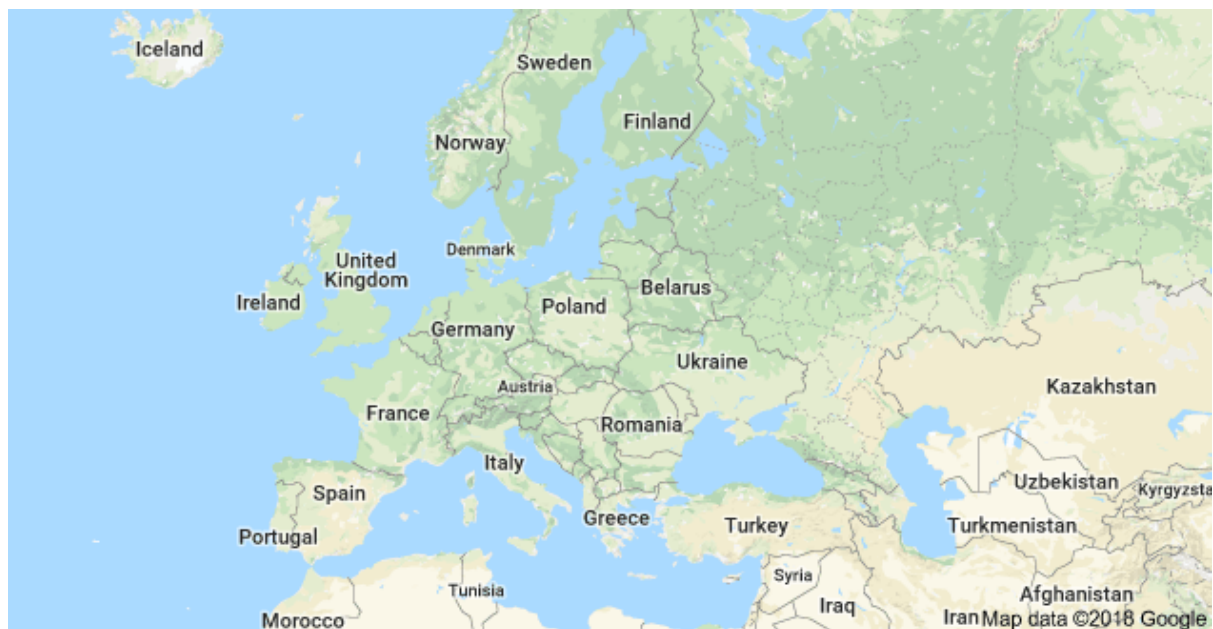
Myths and legends are ancient stories about heroes, monsters and gods. Some of the most famous myths and legends are those from the ancient Greek civilisation from around 1000 BC. How many years ago was 1000 BC?

Greek Myths

When you
were born

When your
teachers
were born

In ancient history, Greece was an important place. Greek islands and cities were very powerful and **culturally** rich. Ancient Greek culture influenced **neighbouring** European countries. Take a look at this map. Which countries do you think Ancient Greece influenced the most?



The world of the Greek myths was a world of hideous monsters, powerful gods, brave heroes and wild adventures. When these stories were **first told**, more than _____ years ago, they were much, much more than stories. For the Ancient Greeks, they were a way of making sense of the world - how it began, who created mankind, why the seasons change, why some people are lucky and some are not, what becomes of us after we die...

Today, we know the answers to many of these questions - we know them because scientists, historians and psychologists have worked to discover them. Why, then, do we still retell these stories?

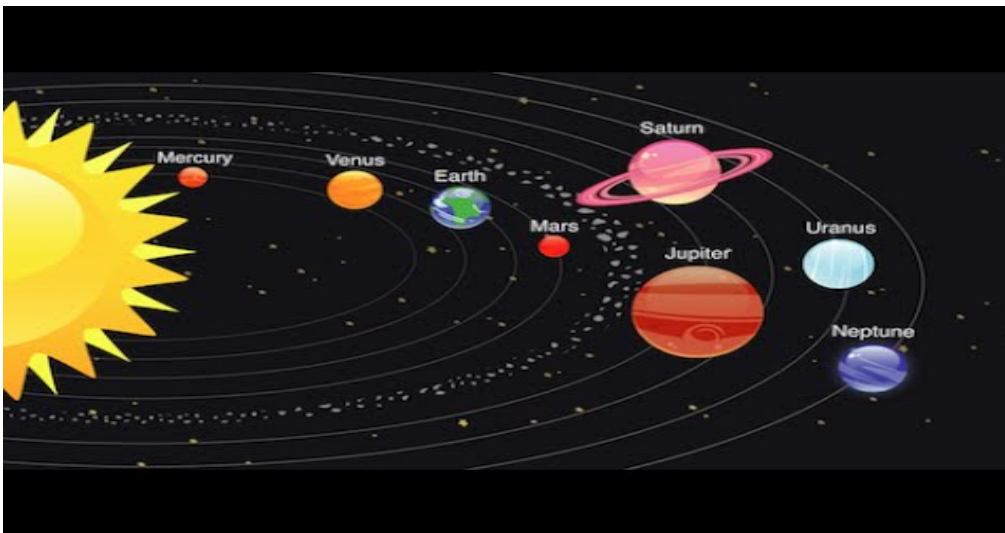
We go on telling these stories because they fascinate anyone, in any country, in any time. They are **captivating** stories about the gods and their wrath, heroes and monsters, tricks and transformations, death and the **underworld**, battles and quests, **prophecies** and curses, trust and **betrayal**: stories that have been told and retold for thousands of years. In short, the Greek myths are just too good to forget.

Three thousand years ago, the Ancient Greeks were very influential. Their influence is still very strong today.

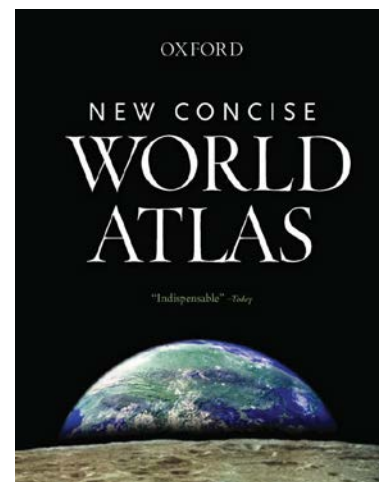
Example 1: We name our planets after the Greek gods: Hermes, Aphrodite, Ares, Zeus, Poseidon and Hades, although they have been given the **Roman names** of these gods: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Neptune and Pluto.

<u>Greek god</u>	<u>Roman god</u>
Hermes	Mercury
Aphrodite	Venus
Ares	Mars
Zeus	Jupiter
Poseidon	Neptune
Hades	Pluto

Rome was an Empire that came after the Ancient Greek civilisation - it started in Italy (take a look at the map). The Romans learnt a lot from the Greeks. When they invaded Britain many years later, they brought that influence to us.



Example 2: Atlas was the name of a Greek Titan who carried the sky on his back; today, an atlas is a book that holds maps of the world, and it is named after him.



Task 1: Read the statements about the when and how of Greek Myths. Label them with 'T' or 'F' to show whether you think they are true or false.

1. The Roman Empire was heavily influenced by the Ancient Greeks.
2. Atlas was a Greek god.
3. The Greek myths date back to 3000 BC.
4. We continue to retell the Greek myths because we believe they hold answers to many of life's questions.
5. The Romans invaded Britain and brought their culture with them.

New Vocabulary: Myth

Myth (noun): a traditional story explaining early history of a people or a natural event, involving heroes, gods and monsters.

Correct examples:

- Hercules is the hero of a Greek myth.
- The myth of the Minotaur is very well-known.
- A mythical creature is one that doesn't exist in the real world.

Incorrect examples:

- My teacher didn't believe my myth that my dog ate my homework.
- My favourite myth is 'Harry Potter'.
- My friend James made up a fascinating myth yesterday.

What qualities do you think the hero or heroine of a myth must have to be successful?

Task 2: write a sentence starting with a capital letter and ending with a full stop, using the words 'hero', 'myth' and 'betrayal'.