

# Greek Myths



Primary Spotlight

Support Notes for Teachers

### **Primary Spotlight sessions**

Primary Spotlights introduce aspects of the Museum's collections using slides of objects which the pupils can see in the galleries. Sessions last 30-40 minutes and are led by members of the Education Department. The presenters use lively question and answer, and sometimes other techniques, to involve the pupils in looking closely at the objects and responding to them in different ways.

### **Greek Myths**

This spotlight explores how the Greek told stories using visual images and why the myths were important to them. Most of the pictures will be taken from Greek pots, but the session starts by looking at more modern stories with which most of the pupils will be familiar. The pupils will learn how to recognise some of the main characters in Greek myths by their attributes and from context. This will enable them to identify these characters on other examples in the British Museum and elsewhere as well as in later art.

### **Following up your Primary Spotlight session**

- \$ Practise identifying characters on other examples of Greek and later art - use art books and websites to provide examples.
- \$ Remind the pupils about how they are able to recognise characters and stories. See if these methods apply to other types of narrative art, for example pictures of Bible stories and Christian saints, Hindu gods and mythology, Egyptian gods etc.
- \$ Compare two pictures of the same story. Discuss what aspects the artist has chosen to focus on. Ask the pupils to think about why the artist might have done this. Show the pupils one picture of a story with which they are familiar - perhaps chosen from a book they have read. After discussing it, ask them to do their own picture showing a different interpretation of the story - discuss the different effect.

### **COMPASS**

Before or after your visit allow the pupils to look at the British Museum's internet database children's COMPASS at [www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/childrenscompass](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/childrenscompass). There is a structured search facility for Ancient Greece which features several objects with gods, goddesses, heroes and monsters.

The adult version of COMPASS can be accessed at [www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/compass](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/compass)

### **Curriculum Links**

#### **National Curriculum for History at Key Stage 2**

This session supports work on how to find out about events and people and beliefs from appropriate sources of information. It also explores the idea of visual interpretations of events and people.

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Please quote the reference *Greek Myths: Primary Spotlight session* in all enquiries.