**The Olympians**

 The Olympian gods were the major gods of the Greeks and lived on Mount Olympus. They included:

* **Zeus** - Leader of the Olympians and god of the sky and lightning. His symbol is the lightning bolt. He is married to Hera, his sister.
* **Poseidon** - God of the ocean, earthquakes, and horses. His symbol is the trident. He is Zeus' and Hades brother.
* **Dionysus** - Lord of wine and celebrations. Patron god of the theatre and art. His main symbol is the grapevine. He is the son of Zeus and the youngest Olympian.
* **Apollo**- Greek god of archery, music, light, and prophecy. His symbols include the sun, the bow and arrow, and the lyre. His twin sister is Artemis.
* **Hermes** - God of commerce and thieves. Hermes is also the messenger of the gods. His symbols include winged sandals and the caduceus (which is a staff with two snakes wrapped around it). His son Pan is the god of nature.
* **Ares** - God of war. His symbols are the spear and shield. He is the son of Zeus and Hera.
* **Hephaestus** - God of fire. Blacksmith and craftsman for the gods. His symbols include fire, the hammer, the anvil, and the donkey. He is married to Aphrodite.
* **Hades** - God of the Underworld. He was a god of the Olympians stature, but lived in the Underworld rather than on Mount Olympus.

**Goddesses**

* **Hera** - Queen of the gods and married to Zeus. She is the goddess of marriage and family. Her symbols are the peacock, pomegranate, lion, and cow
* **Artemis** - Goddess of the hunt, archery, and animals. Her symbols include the moon, the bow and arrow, and the deer. Her twin brother is Apollo.
* **Athena** - Greek goddess of wisdom, defense, and war. Her symbols are the owl and the olive branch. She is the patron god of Athens.
* **Aphrodite** - Goddess of love and beauty. Her symbols include the dove, swan, and rose. She is married to Hephaestus
* **Demeter** - Goddess of agriculture and the seasons. Her symbols include wheat and the pig.
* **Iris-** Goddessand the personification of the **rainbow**, which the Ancient Greeks believed to be the goddess’s dress.

**Greek Heroes**
 A Greek hero was a brave and strong man that was favored by the gods. He performed brave exploits and adventures. Sometimes the hero, even though mortal, was somehow related to the gods.

* **Hercules** - A son of Zeus and the greatest hero in Greek Mythology, Hercules had many labors he had to perform. He was very strong and fought many monsters in his adventures.
* **Achilles** - The greatest hero of the Trojan War, Achilles was invulnerable except for his heel. He is the central character in Homer's Iliad.
* **Odysseus** - The hero of Homer's epic poem, the Odyssey, Odysseus was brave and strong, but mostly got by on his wits and intelligence.
* **Perseus-** Perseus was the son of [Zeus](http://www.greek-gods.info/greek-gods/zeus/) and the princess [Danae](http://www.greek-gods.info/greek-heroes/danae/), daughter of the mythical king of [Argos](http://www.greek-gods.info/ancient-greece/argos/) Acrisius.
* [**Theseus**](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Heroes/Theseus/theseus.html)**-** He was a very important Greek hero who combined**strength, power**and**wisdom.** He was the**mythical founder of Athens, Greece.**
* [**Jason**](http://www.greekmythology.com/Tools/Results/results.html?cx=partner-pub-4554663635522004%3Ax4u7l4-z379&cof=FORID%3A10&ie=ISO-8859-1&q=Jason&sa=Search)**-** Jason was the son of the lawful king of Iolcus.

**Creatures**

* **Centaurs** -The Centaurs were half-man half-horse creatures. Their upper half was human, while their lower half had four legs like a horse.
* **Cerberus** -The Cerberus was a giant three-headed dog that guarded the gates of the Underworld.
* **Charybdis** - Charybdis was a sea monster that took the shape of a giant whirlpool.
* **Chimera** -The chimera was a giant monster that was a combination of many animals including a goat, lion, and snake.
* **Cyclopes** -The Cyclopes were one-eyed giants. They were famous for making Zeus his thunderbolts and Poseidon his trident.
* **Furies** -The furies were flying creatures with sharp fangs and claws. There were three main furies who were sisters: Alecto, Tisiphone, and Magaera.
* **Griffins** -The griffin was a combination of a lion and an eagle. It had the body of a lion and the head, wings, and talons of an eagle. Griffins were said to live in northern Greece where they guarded a huge treasure.
* **Harpies** The harpies were flying creatures with the faces of women.
* **Hydra** -The hydra was a fearsome monster from Greek Mythology. It was a giant snake with nine heads.
* **Medusa** Medusa was a type of Greek monster called a Gorgon. She had a woman's face, but had snakes for hair.
* **Minotaur** -The Minotaur had the head of bull and the body of a man. The Minotaur came from the island of Crete. He lived underground in a maze called the Labyrinth.
* **Pegasus** -Pegasus was a beautiful white horse that could fly.
* **Satyrs** -Satyrs were half-goat half-man.
* **Scylla** -Scylla was a terrible sea monster with 12 long tentacle legs and 6 dog-like heads.
* **Sirens** –The Sirens were sea nymphs.
* **Sphinx** -The Sphinx had the body of a lion, the head of a woman, and the wings of an eagle.
**Typhon** -Typhon was perhaps the scariest and most powerful of all the monsters in Greek Mythology.

**Sacred Items**

* **Achilles' Armor-**Armor created by [Hephaestus](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Hephaestus). It was presumably impenetrable.
* [**Adamantine**](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Adamantine)-Rare, hard and durable element mentioned in Greek mythology.
* [**Aegis**](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Aegis)-Aegis, the shield of Zeus
* **Apollo's Bow-** Bow used by Apollo for inducing health or death.
* **Caduceus-** Staff used by Hermes, entwined by two serpents.
* **Eros' Bow-** Bow that generated arrows which caused the target to hate or love the first person in sight.
* [**Golden Fleece**](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Golden_Fleece) **-**Golden Fleece retrieved by Jason and the Argonauts.
* **Golden Apple of Discord-** Golden apple that the goddesses Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite fought over.
* **Hades' Biden -** Dual-pointed spear used by [Hades](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Hades). Also known as Hades' pitchfork.
* **Harpe-** Combination of a sword and sickle, and term used to refer to the sword used by Perseus to kill Medusa, and to the sickle used by Cronus to castrate Ouranus.
* [**Helios' Chariot**](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Helios%27_Chariot)-Chariot driven by [Helios](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Helios), the god of the Sun.
* [**Helm of Darkness**](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Helm_of_Darkness)**-** Helmet of darkness, also known as helmet or cap of invisibility, was a headgear created by the Cyclopes for [Hades](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Hades) ([Pluto](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Pluto)).
* **Heracles's Bow-** Bow that belonged to the demi-god [Heracles](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Heracles), with arrows tipped with the Hydra's poison.
* [**Hide of the Nemean Lion**](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Nemean_Lion)-Earned by Heracles, it was impenetrable, at least by conventional weapons.
* [**Poseidon's Trident**](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Poseidon%27s_Trident)-[Poseidon's](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Poseidon) trademark weapon and symbol of power. Presumably the greatest weapon made for the gods by the cyclopses (the others were Hades's pitchfork and Zeus's bolt)
* [**Shield of Achilles**](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Shield_of_Achilles)**-** Shield which Achilles used during his fight with Hector.
* [**Shirt of Nessus**](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Shirt_of_Nessus)-Shirt poisoned with [Nessus](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Nessus) tainted blood, used to poison and kill [Heracles](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Heracles).
* **Spear of Achilles-** Build by Hephaestus and given to Peleus.
* **Sword of Peleus-** Magic sword which makes the user to emerge victorious in battle.
* **Thyrsus-** Staff tipped with a pine cone and entwined with ivy leaves, carried by [Dionysus](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Dionysus) and his followers.
* [**Winged Helmet**](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Winged_Helmet)-Winged helmet wore by [Hermes](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Hermes).
* [**Winged Sandals**](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Winged_Sandals)-Winged Sandals wore by Hermes, allowing the god to fly.
* **Zeus' Thunderbolt-** Raw lightning thunderbolts manipulated by [Zeus](http://mythology.wikia.com/wiki/Zeus).