

The Twelve Olympians

A Unit Study



Study Guide

Mount Olympus

Mount Olympus is Greece's highest mountain range. Its highest peak, Mytikas, rises to 9,577 feet. It is located on the borders of Thessaly and Macedonia. Mount Olympus, in Greek Mythology, was the home of the gods, specifically the Twelve Olympians.

The Twelve Olympians

The Twelve Olympians, also called the Dodekatheon, were the principal gods in Greek Mythology. They were said to reside atop Mount Olympus. The Twelve Olympians are Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Demeter, Ares, Athena, Apollo, Artemis, Hephaestus, Aphrodite, Hermes, and Dionysus. Hades was not one of the Twelve because he did not have a seat on the Mount as he spent almost all his time in the underworld. Hestia was originally one of the Twelve, but when Dionysus was offered a seat, the total number of Olympians became thirteen. Because thirteen was believed to be an unlucky number, Hestia chose to step down leaving the number of Olympians at twelve.

Zeus

Zeus was the king of the gods and the ruler of Mount Olympus. The Romans called him Jupiter. Zeus was the god of the sky and thunder. His symbols were the thunderbolt, eagle, bull, and oak.

Zeus was the youngest son of Cronus and Rhea. Cronus, the king of the Titans, had swallowed all of Zeus's siblings (Poseidon, Hades, Hestia, Demeter, and Hera). He intended to swallow Zeus as well, but Rhea hid the newborn in a cave on Mount Dicte in Crete.

Zeus grew up and managed to cause Cronus to vomit up his sisters and brothers. The gods joined together to get control of the universe from the Titans. This accomplished, Zeus imprisoned most of the Titans in the underworld of Tartarus.

Zeus and his brothers, Poseidon and Hades, divided the world. Poseidon took the sea, Hades the underworld, and Zeus the sky.

Poseidon

Poseidon was the god of the sea, earthquakes, and horses. The Romans called him Neptune. His symbols were horses, sea foam, dolphins, and the trident. He was officially one of the supreme gods of Mount Olympus, but spent most of his time in his domain, the sea.

Poseidon could shift his shape and sometimes chose to be in the shape of a steed. He sometimes granted the shape-shifting power to others as well.

Hera

Hera was the goddess of marriage, women, and childbirth. The Romans called her Juno. She was the wife of Zeus and the Queen of the Olympians. Her symbols were the scepter, diadem, and peacock.

Demeter

Demeter was the goddess of fertility, agriculture, grain, and the harvest. The Romans called her Ceres. She was the sister of Zeus and the mother of Persephone. Demeter is usually shown carrying a sheaf of grain. Her symbols were the scepter, torch, and corn.

Aphrodite

Aphrodite was the goddess of love and beauty. She also protected sailors. The Romans called her Venus. Some say she was born from sea foam while others say she was the daughter of Zeus and Dione. She was the wife of Hephaestus. Her symbols were the scepter, myrtle, and the dove.

Paris, the Trojan prince, was asked to judge which of the three Olympian goddesses, Aphrodite, Hera, or Athena, was the most beautiful. He chose Aphrodite.

Athena

Athena was the goddess of wisdom, warfare, strategy, handicrafts, and reason. The Romans called her Minerva. She was the wisest of the gods. Her symbols were the owl and olive tree. Her brother was Ares.

She was the daughter of Zeus and Metis, though her birth was very strange. Zeus was warned that a son born to Metis would usurp his throne and so when Metis became pregnant, Zeus swallowed her. Eventually, Zeus got such a splitting headache that he asked Hephaestus for help. Hephaestus hit Zeus's forehead with an ax and Athena came out fully armed.

Ares

Ares was the god of war, murder, and bloodshed. The Romans called him Mars. His father was Zeus and his sister was Athena. His symbols were vultures, dogs, boars, and the spear.

Ares was handsome, but cruel. He is often shown carrying a bloodstained spear and his throne on Mount Olympus was said to be covered in human skin.

Dionysus

Dionysus was the god of wine, parties, and merriment. The Romans called him Bacchus. He was the son of Zeus and the mortal Semele. His symbols were the grape vine and ivy

Dionysus was the god who granted Midas the golden touch. Once that ability proved inconvenient to Midas, Dionysus was kind enough to take the power back.

Apollo

Apollo was the god of music, poetry, prophecies, archery, medicine, and healing. The Romans, like the Greeks, called him Apollo. He helped Paris slay the mighty fighter Achilles with an arrow. He was the son of Zeus and Leto, and the brother of Artemis.

Apollo was often shown playing the lyre, which was one of his symbols along with the bow and laurel. He was given the lyre by Hermes as compensation for cattle theft. Some said Apollo invented the lute.

Hephaestus

Hephaestus was the god of fire, the forge, and blacksmiths. The Romans called him Vulcan. He was the son of Zeus and Hera. He built incredible palaces for the gods atop Mount Olympus. He created the armor for Achilles for the Trojan War. His symbols were the ax, hammer and flame.

Artemis

Artemis was the goddess of the hunt, wild things, and the moon. The Romans called her Diana. Her brother was Apollo, her parents Zeus and Leto. Her symbols were the bow, dogs, and deer.

Artemis was often shown as a young women wearing buckskins. She carried a bow and a quiver of arrows and was often with wild creatures like a stag or she-bear.

Hermes

Hermes was the messenger of the gods and the guide of the dead to the underworld. He was the god of flight, thieves, mischief, commerce, and travelers. The Romans called him Mercury. He was the son of Zeus and a mountain nymph. His symbol was winged boots.

He was said to have created the first lyre on the first day of his life by stringing sinews across an empty tortoise shell. He appears in more myths than any other god.

Hades

Hades was not one of the Twelve Olympians, though he was Zeus's brother. His domain, where he stayed, was the underworld. The Romans called him Pluto. He took Demeter's daughter Persephone to the underworld with him but was convinced to allow Persephone to only stay there with him for half of the year and to return to the upper world the other half of the year. He had a three headed dog, Cerberus, which was also his symbol.

Hestia

Hestia was not one of the Twelve Olympians. She was the goddess of the hearth and home. The Romans called her Vesta. She was Zeus's sister, but gave up her seat as one of the Twelve Olympians to Dionysus. Her symbol was the hearth.

Activities

Activity 1

Read and discuss the section in the study guide on Mount Olympus. Create a paper mache Mount Olympus model. Instant paper mache can be used to just sculp a mountain shape. Alternatively, create a cone shape using two heavy sheets of paper attached together. Mix flour and water to make a relatively thin paste. Rip newspaper into strips and coat in the flour and water mixture. Attach strips to the paper cone to make a mountain shape. Repeat with a second layer of newspaper. Once the mountain is dry, it can be painted.

Activity 2

On the outline map of Greece found in the worksheets section, locate where the real Mount Olympus is and mark the spot.

Activity 3

Read and discuss the section in the study guide on the Twelve Olympians. Complete the Twelve Olympians worksheet.

Activity 4

Read and discuss the section in the study guide on Zeus. Color and cut out Zeus from the paper gods section. Choose a symbol that represents him. Draw that symbol on blank paper. Color, cut out, and attach the symbol to the paper Zeus. Attach Zeus to Mount Olympus model.

Activity 5

Read and discuss the section in the study guide on Poseidon. Color and cut out Poseidon from the paper gods section. Choose a symbol that represents him. Draw that symbol on blank paper. Color, cut out, and attach the symbol to the paper Poseidon. Attach Poseidon to Mount Olympus model.

Activity 6

Color the Sky/Sea/Underworld worksheet. Label with the correct gods for each domain.

Activity 7

Complete the Zeus and Poseidon worksheet.

Activity 8

Read and discuss the section in the study guide on Hera. Color and cut out Hera from the paper gods section. Choose a symbol that represents her. Draw that symbol on blank paper. Color, cut out, and attach the symbol to the paper Hera. Attach Hera to Mount Olympus model.

Activity 9

Read and discuss the section in the study guide on Demeter. Color and cut out Demeter from the paper gods section. Choose a symbol that represents her. Draw that symbol on blank paper. Color, cut out, and attach the symbol to the paper Demeter. Attach Demeter to Mount Olympus model.

Activity 10

Complete the Hera and Demeter worksheet.

Activity 11

Read and discuss the section in the study guide on Aphrodite. Color and cut out Aphrodite from the paper gods section. Choose a symbol that represents her. Draw that symbol on blank paper. Color, cut out, and attach the symbol to the paper Aphrodite. Attach Aphrodite to Mount Olympus model.

Activity 12

Read and discuss the section in the study guide on Athena. Color and cut out Athena from the paper gods section. Choose a symbol that represents her. Draw that symbol on blank paper. Color, cut out, and attach the symbol to the paper Athena. Attach Athena to Mount Olympus model.

Activity 13

Draw Athena's birth on the worksheet from the worksheet section.

Activity 14

Complete the Aphrodite and Athena worksheet.

Activity 15

Read and discuss the section in the study guide on Ares. Color and cut out Ares from the paper gods section. Choose a symbol that represents him. Draw that symbol on blank paper. Color, cut out, and attach the symbol to the paper Ares. Attach Ares to Mount Olympus model.

Activity 16

Read and discuss the section in the study guide on Dionysus. Color and cut out Dionysus from the paper gods section. Choose a symbol that represents him. Draw that symbol on blank paper. Color, cut out, and attach the symbol to the paper Dionysus. Attach Dionysus to Mount Olympus model.

Activity 17

Complete the Ares and Dionysus worksheet.

Activity 18

Read and discuss the section in the study guide on Apollo. Color and cut out Apollo from the paper gods section. Choose a symbol that represents him. Draw that symbol on blank paper. Color, cut out, and attach the symbol to the paper Apollo. Attach Apollo to Mount Olympus model.

Activity 19

Read and discuss the section in the study guide on Hephaestus. Color and cut out Hephaestus from the paper gods section. Choose a symbol that represents him. Draw that symbol on blank paper. Color, cut out, and attach the symbol to the paper Hephaestus. Attach Hephaestus to Mount Olympus model.

Activity 20

Complete the Apollo and Hephaestus worksheet.

Activity 21

Read and discuss the section in the study guide on Artemis. Color and cut out Artemis from the paper gods section. Choose a symbol that represents her. Draw that symbol on blank paper. Color, cut out, and attach the symbol to the paper Artemis. Attach Artemis to Mount Olympus model.

Activity 22

Read and discuss the section in the study guide on Hermes. Color and cut out Hermes from the paper gods section. Choose a symbol that represents him. Draw that symbol on blank paper. Color, cut out, and attach the symbol to the paper Hermes. Attach Hermes to Mount Olympus model.

Activity 23

Complete the Artemis and Hermes worksheet.

Activity 24

Read and discuss the section in the study guide on Hades. Color and cut out Hades from the paper gods section. Choose a symbol that represents him. Draw that symbol on blank paper. Color, cut out, and attach the symbol to the paper Hades. Attach Hades to Mount Olympus model (but be sure not to put him on top of the mountain as he was not one of the Twelve Olympians).

Activity 25

Read and discuss the section in the study guide on Hestia. Color and cut out Hestia from the paper gods section. Choose a symbol that represents her. Draw that symbol on blank paper. Color, cut out, and attach the symbol to the paper Hestia. Attach Hestia to Mount Olympus model (but be sure not to put her on top of the mountain as she was not one of the Twelve Olympians).

Activity 26

Complete the Hades and Hestia worksheet.

Activity 27

Label The Solar System worksheet with the corresponding Greek gods' names.

Activity 28

Complete the Twelve Olympians Family Tree worksheet.

Activity 29

Complete the Twelve Olympians Crossword Puzzle worksheet.

Activity 30

Read a book of your choice about the Twelve Olympians or Greek myths. Older kids may enjoy reading the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series.

Worksheets

GREECE



The Twelve Olympians

1. What is another name for the Twelve Olympians?
2. What were the Twelve Olympians?
3. Where did the Twelve Olympians live?
4. What were the names of the Twelve Olympians?
5. Why didn't Hades have a seat on the Mount?
6. Why did Hestia give up her seat as one of the Twelve?

Sky/Sea/Underworld

SKY

God: _____

SEA

God: _____

UNDERWORLD

God: _____

Zeus and Poseidon

Zeus ruled _____ . He was called _____

by the Romans. He was the youngest son of _____ and

_____. He divided the world with his brothers _____ and

_____. Zeus took the domain of the _____. His symbols were

the _____, _____, _____, and oak.

Poseidon was the god of the _____, earthquakes, and _____.

The Romans called him _____. He spent most of his time in his domain,

the _____. Sometimes Poseidon chose to shape shift into the shape of a

_____. His symbols were horses, _____,

dolphins, and the _____.

Hera and Demeter

1. Hera was the goddess of marriage and what else?

2. What did the Romans call Hera?

3. Who was Hera's husband?

4. What were Hera's symbols?

5. What was Demeter the goddess of?

6. What did the Romans call Demeter?

7. What is Demeter often shown carrying?

ATHENA'S BIRTH

Describe Athena's birth:

Aphrodite and Athena

Aphrodite was the goddess of _____ and _____. The Romans called her _____. She was either born from _____ or she was the daughter of _____ and _____. Her husband was _____. Her symbols were the _____, myrtle, and the _____. She was chosen as the most beautiful goddess by the _____ prince _____.

Athena was the goddess of _____, warfare, _____, _____, and reason. The Romans called her _____. Her symbols were the _____ and the _____. She was born when _____ hit Zeus's _____ with an ax. She came out fully _____.

Ares and Dionysus

1. Ares was the god of war and what else?
2. What did the Romans call Ares?
3. What were Ares's symbols?
4. What was Ares's throne on Mount Olympus said to be covered with?
5. What was Dionysus the god of?
6. What was Dionysus's Roman name?
7. To whom did Dionysus grant the golden touch?

Apollo and Hephaestus

Apollo was the god of _____, _____, prophecies, archery, _____, and _____. The _____ and Greeks both called him by the same name. He was the son of _____ and _____. His sister was _____. Although he was often shown playing one of his symbols, the _____, he did not invent that instrument. Some said he did invent the _____. In addition to the lyre, his symbols were the _____ and _____.

Hephaestus was the god of _____, the forge, and _____. The Romans called him _____. His parents were Zeus and _____. He built _____ atop Mount _____ for the gods. His symbols were the _____, hammer, and _____.

Artemis and Hermes

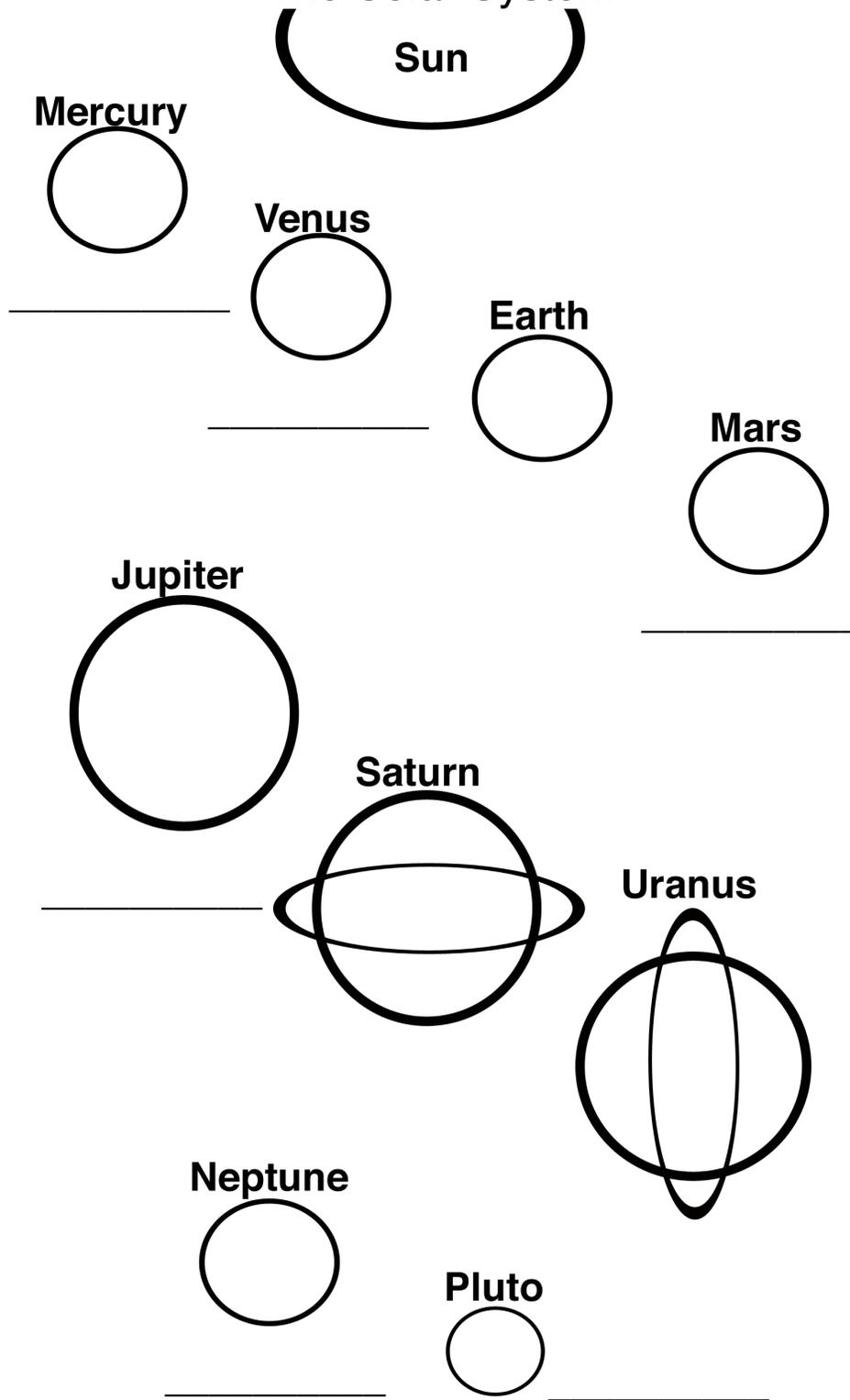
1. What was Artemis the goddess of?
2. What did the Romans call Artemis?
3. What were Artemis's symbols?
4. What were Hermes's two special jobs?
5. Hermes was the god of flight, thieves, and what else?
6. What did the Romans call Hermes?
7. What was Hermes's symbol?

Hades and Hestia

Hades was not one of the _____ even though he was Zeus's _____. His domain was the _____. The Romans called him _____. He had a three-_____ dog Cerberus. _____ was his symbol.

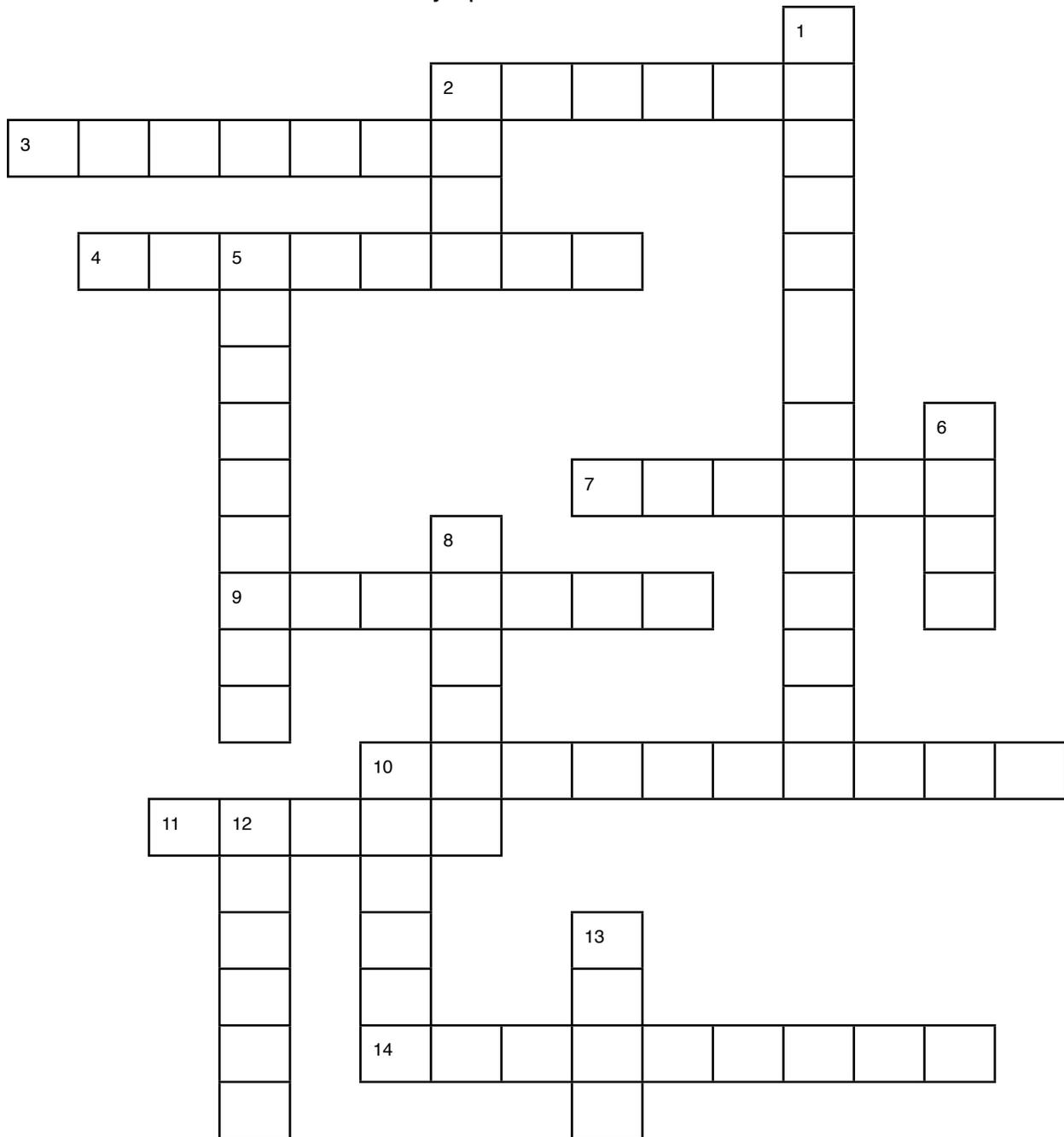
Hestia was also not one of the _____. She was the goddess of the _____ and _____. The Romans called her _____. She gave up her seat as one of the Twelve Olympians to _____. Her symbol was the _____.

The Solar System



Note: Pluto is no longer considered a planet, but is included on this picture because Pluto is the Roman name of one of the Greek gods.

Twelve Olympians Crossword Puzzle



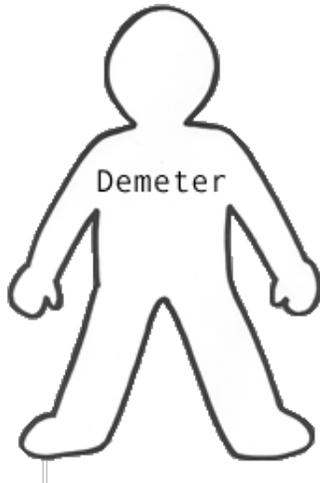
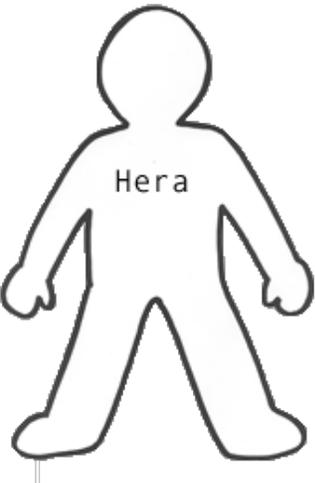
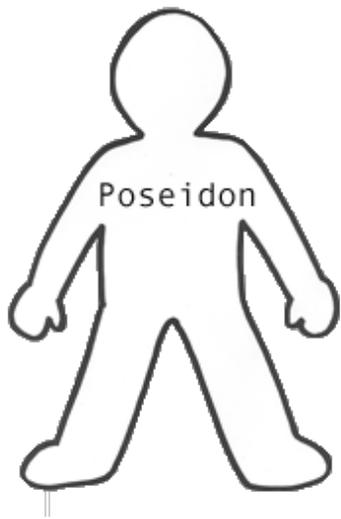
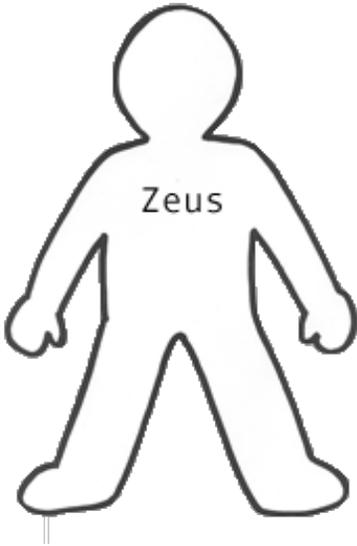
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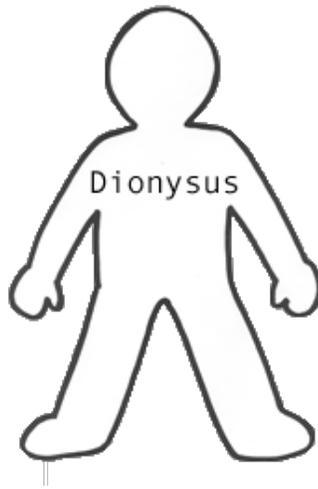
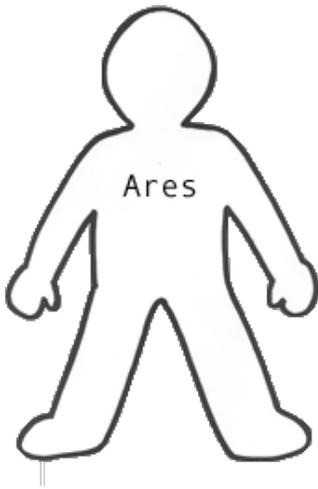
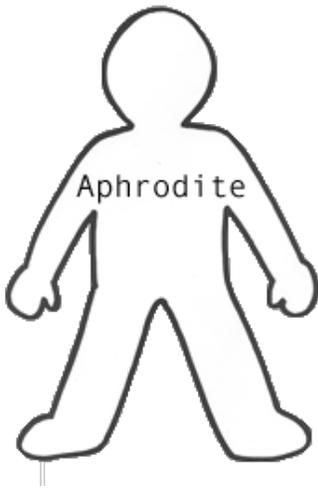
- 2. Had same name in Greece and Rome
- 3. Goddess of agriculture
- 4. Symbols were the grape vine and ivy
- 7. Number of Olympians
- 9. Called Diana by the Romans
- 10. Built palaces for the other gods
- 11. God of the underworld
- 14. Goddess of love and beauty

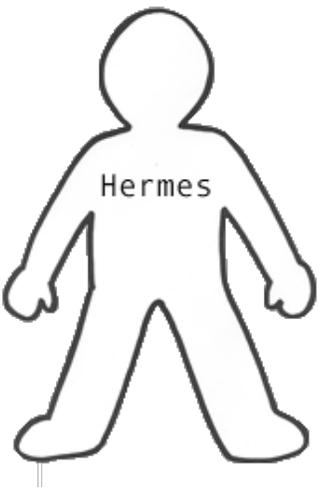
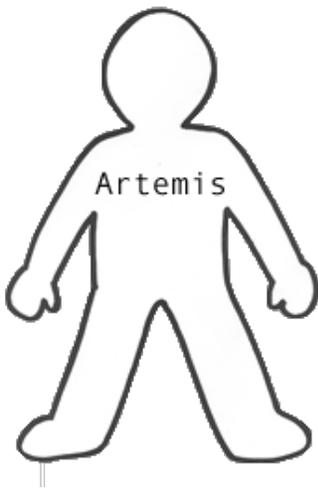
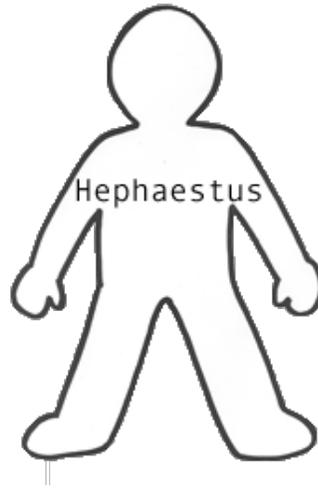
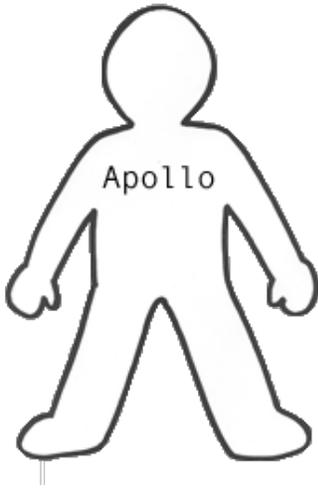
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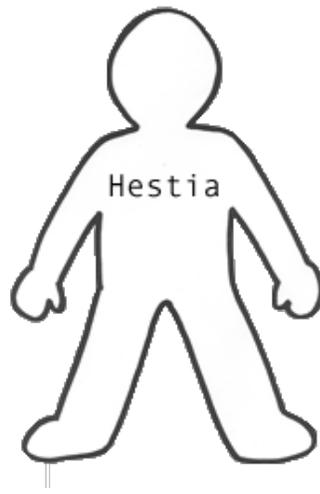
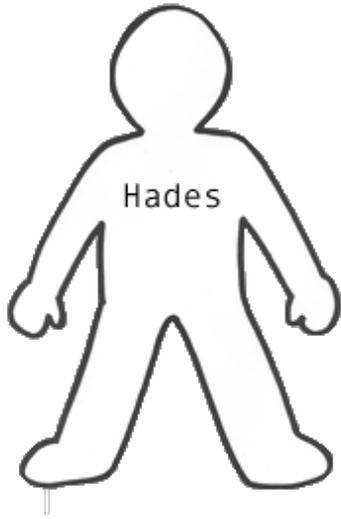
- 1. Where the Olympians lived
- 2. Had a throne covered with human skin
- 5. Major gods were the Twelve _____
- 6. King of the gods
- 8. Messenger of the gods
- 10. Gave up her seat to Dionysus
- 12. Born out of Zeus's forehead
- 13. Wife of Zeus

Paper Gods









Worksheet Answers

GREECE



The Twelve Olympians

1. What is another name for the Twelve Olympians?

Another name for the Twelve Olympians is the Dodekatheon.

2. What were the Twelve Olympians?

The Twelve Olympians were the principal gods in Greek Mythology.

3. Where did the Twelve Olympians live?

The Twelve Olympians lived atop Mount Olympus.

4. What were the names of the Twelve Olympians?

The names of the Twelve Olympians were Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Demeter, Ares, Athena, Apollo, Artemis, Hephaestus, Aphrodite, Hermes, and Dionysus.

5. Why didn't Hades have a seat on the Mount?

Hades did not have a seat on the Mount because he spent almost all his time in the underworld.

6. Why did Hestia give up her seat as one of the Twelve?

Hestia gave up her seat as one of the Twelve because Dionysus was offered a seat. This would have brought the total number of Olympians to thirteen. Thirteen was believed to be an unlucky number so Hestia chose to step Down, leaving the number of Olympians at twelve.

Sky/Sea/Underworld

SKY

God: *Zeus*

SEA

God: *Poseidon*

UNDERWORLD

God: *Hades*

Zeus and Poseidon

Zeus ruled _____ *Mount* _____ _____ *Olympus* _____. He was called _____ *Jupiter* _____ by the Romans. He was the youngest son of _____ *Cronus* _____ and _____ *Rhea* _____. He divided the world with his brothers _____ *Poseidon* _____ and _____ *Hades* _____. Zeus took the domain of the _____ *sky* _____. His symbols were the _____ *thunderbolt* _____, _____ *eagle* _____, _____ *bull* _____, and oak.

Poseidon was the god of the _____ *sea* _____, earthquakes, and _____ *horses* _____.

The Romans called him _____ *Neptune* _____. He spent most of his time in his domain, the _____ *sea* _____. Sometimes Poseidon chose to shape shift into the shape of a _____ *steed* _____. His symbols were horses, _____ *sea* _____ _____ *foam* _____, dolphins, and the _____ *trident* _____.

Hera and Demeter

1. Hera was the goddess of marriage and what else?

Hera was the goddess of marriage, women, and childbirth.

2. What did the Romans call Hera?

The Romans called Hera Juno.

3. Who was Hera's husband?

Hera's husband was Zeus.

4. What were Hera's symbols?

Hera's symbols were the scepter, diadem, peacock.

5. What was Demeter the goddess of?

Demeter was the goddess of fertility, agriculture, grain, and the harvest.

6. What did the Romans call Demeter?

The Romans called Demeter Ceres.

7. What is Demeter often shown carrying?

Demeter was often shown carrying a sheaf of grain.

ATHENA'S BIRTH

Describe Athena's birth:

When Metis got pregnant, Zeus swallowed her. Eventually Zeus got such a splitting headache that he asked Hephaestus for help. Hephaestus hit Zeus's forehead with an ax and Athena came out fully armed.

Aphrodite and Athena

Aphrodite was the goddess of love and beauty. The Romans called her Venus. She was either born from sea foam or she was the daughter of Zeus and Dione. Her husband was Hephaestus. Her symbols were the scepter, myrtle, and the dove. She was chosen as the most beautiful goddess by the Trojan prince Paris.

Athena was the goddess of wisdom, warfare, strategy, handicrafts, and reason. The Romans called her Minvera. Her symbols were the owl and the olive tree. She was born when Hephaestus hit Zeus's forehead with an ax. She came out fully armed.

Ares and Dionysus

1. Ares was the god of war and what else?

Ares was the god of war, murder, and bloodshed.

2. What did the Romans call Ares?

The Romans called Ares Mars.

3. What were Ares's symbols?

Ares' symbols were vultures, dogs, boars, and the spear.

4. What was Ares's throne on Mount Olympus said to be covered with?

Ares throne on Mount Olympus was said to be covered with human skin.

5. What was Dionysus the god of?

Dionysus was the god of wine, parties, and merriment.

6. What was Dionysus's Roman name?

The Romans called Dionysus Bacchus.

7. To whom did Dionysus grant the golden touch?

Dionysus gave the golden touch to Midas.

Apollo and Hephaestus

Apollo was the god of music, poetry, prophecies, archery, medicine, and healing. The Romans and Greeks both called him by the same name. He was the son of Zeus and Leto. His sister was Artemis. Although he was often shown playing one of his symbols, the lyre, he did not invent that instrument. Some said he did invent the lute. In addition to the lyre, his symbols were the bow and laurel.

Hephaestus was the god of fire, the forge, and blacksmiths. The Romans called him Vulcan. His parents were Zeus and Hera. He built palaces atop Mount Olympus for the gods. His symbols were the ax, hammer, and flame.

Artemis and Hermes

1. What was Artemis the goddess of?

Artemis was the goddess of the hunt, wild things, and the moon.

2. What did the Romans call Artemis?

The Romans called Artemis Diana.

3. What were Artemis's symbols?

Artemis' symbols were the bow, dogs, and deer.

4. What were Hermes's two special jobs?

Hermes' two special jobs were being the messenger of the gods and guiding the dead to the underworld.

5. Hermes was the god of flight, thieves, and what else?

Hermes was the god of flight, thieves, commerce, and travelers.

6. What did the Romans call Hermes?

The Romans called Hermes Mercury.

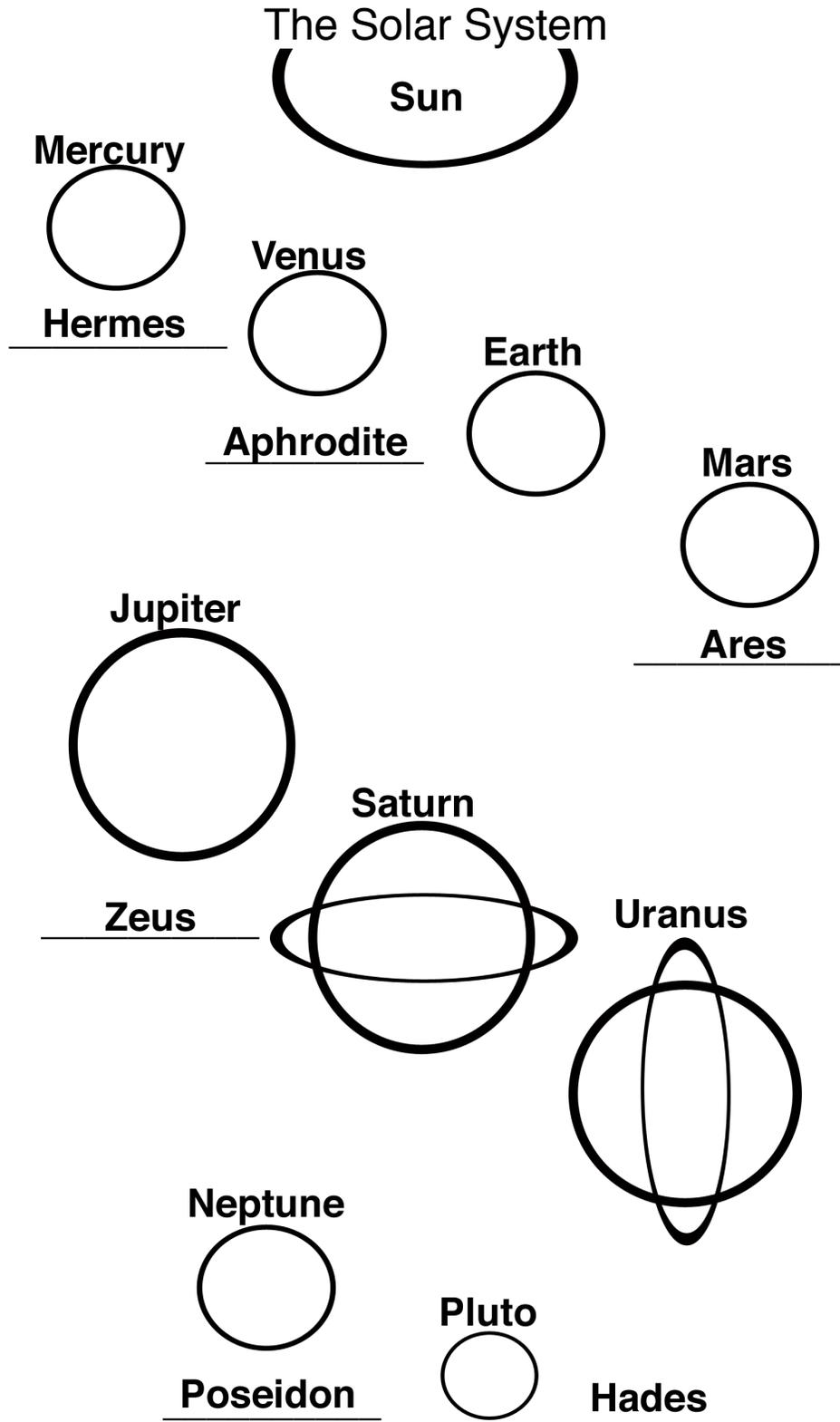
7. What was Hermes's symbol?

Hermes' symbol was winged boots.

Hades and Hestia

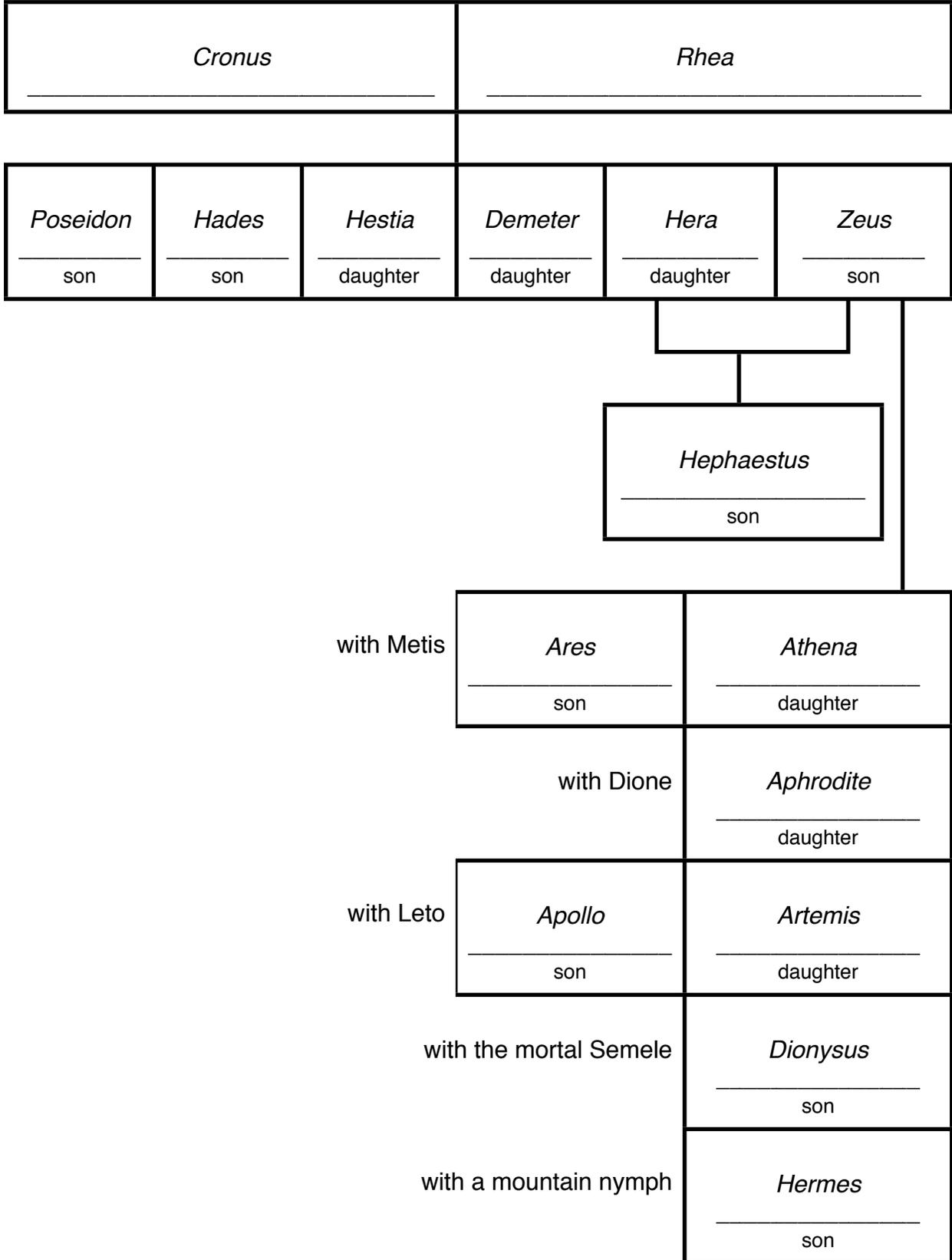
Hades was not one of the _____ *Twelve* _____ *Olympians* _____ even though he was Zeus's _____ *brother* _____. His domain was the _____ *underworld* _____. The Romans called him _____ *Pluto* _____. He had a three-_____ *headed* _____ dog Cerberus. _____ *Cerberus* _____ was his symbol.

Hestia was also not one of the _____ *Twelve* _____ *Olympians* _____. She was the goddess of the _____ *hearth* _____ and _____ *home* _____. The Romans called her _____ *Vesta* _____. She gave up her seat as one of the Twelve Olympians to _____ *Dionysus* _____. Her symbol was the _____ *hearth* _____.

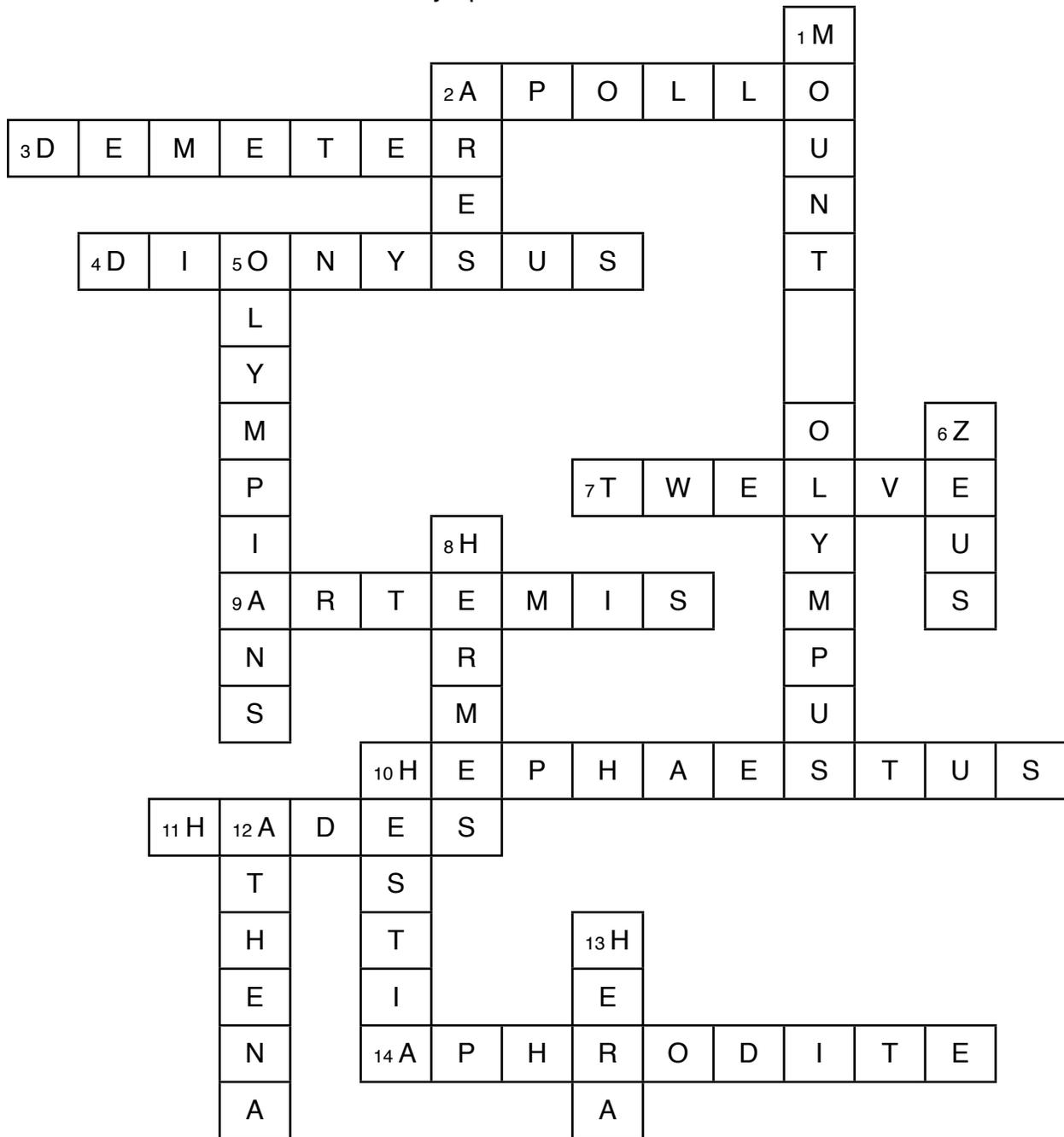


Note: Pluto is no longer considered a planet, but is included on this picture because Pluto is the Roman name of one of the Greek gods.

Twelve Olympians Family Tree



Twelve Olympians Crossword Puzzle



Across

2. Had same name in Greece and Rome
3. Goddess of agriculture
4. Symbols were the grape vine and ivy
7. Number of Olympians
9. Called Diana by the Romans
10. Built palaces for the other gods
11. God of the underworld
14. Goddess of love and beauty

Down

1. Where the Olympians lived
2. Had a throne covered with human skin
5. Major gods were the Twelve _____
6. King of the gods
8. Messenger of the gods
10. Gave up her seat to Dionysus
12. Born out of Zeus's forehead
13. Wife of Zeus

Credits

<http://www.mythweb.com/>
<http://www.wikipedia.com>

outline map of Greece from [geography.about.com](http://www.geography.about.com)
paper gods template from [docstoc.com](http://www.docstoc.com) (all about me template)