



Sacred Animals of the Greek Gods

Laura Noll

We all know about the Greek Gods made famous throughout history and more recently by Disney movies, but did you know that these gods had SACRED ANIMALS that were SYMBOLS (something that represents or stands for something else) of their specific strengths? These animals were used to pull CHARIOTS, send messages, or act as COMPANIONS (a person or animal that someone spends a lot of time with) to the gods.

SPELL: SACRED, ANIMALS, CHARIOTS

Today we are talking about _____ animals of the Greek Gods.
SACRED

Something that represents something else is a _____. SYMBOL

What were these sacred animals used for? PULL CHARIOTS, SEND MESSAGES, ACT AS COMPANIONS

Name a Greek God.

Let's start with ZEUS, the KING of the gods, and the most powerful. He was the god of the sky and THUNDER, which meant he CONTROLLED THE WEATHER. He could hurl LIGHTNING BOLTS! His sacred animal was the EAGLE. The giant, golden eagle served as Zeus' PERSONAL MESSENGER and ANIMAL COMPANION.

SPELL: ZEUS, THUNDER, EAGLE

Zeus is known as the _____ of the Gods KING

Zeus controlled the _____. WEATHER

What could Zeus hurl? LIGHTNING BOLTS

Question Type Key

KNOWN – SEMI-OPEN – PRIOR KNOWLEDGE – MATH – OPEN – VAKT



The eagle served as Zeus' _____. PERSONAL MESSENGER,
ANIMAL COMPANION

Zeus controls the weather, and he is the god of thunder, but what other types of weather would Zeus control?



ZEUS WITH EAGLE

VAKT

Stand up, spread your arms out like an eagle. Now imagine you are Zeus holding a thunderbolt. How would you throw it?

Question Type Key

KNOWN – SEMI-OPEN – PRIOR KNOWLEDGE – MATH – OPEN – VAKT



HERA was the QUEEN of the gods, and the goddess of MARRIAGE, WOMEN, the SKY and the STARS. She was also an animal lover. She was often PORTRAYED (depicted in a work of art or literature) with animals she considered to be sacred: Hera chose the cow because it is known to NURTURE (gentle, care and encourage growth and development). The PEACOCK and LION were chosen to represent her BEAUTY, LUXURY (comfort, extravagant living), and IMMORTALITY (the ability to live forever). Her chariot was pulled by peacocks.

SPELL: HERA, QUEEN, PEACOCK

Hera was the queen of the _____. GODS

What animal did Hera consider to be nurturing? COW

Which animals pulled Hera's chariot? PEACOCKS

A nurturing animal cares for its young and encourages growth and development. What other animals can you think of that might be nurturing? HORSE, GOAT, PIG

Which animals did Hera consider to be sacred? PEACOCK, LION



Hera with Peacocks

POSEIDON, brother of Zeus, was god of the OCEAN and of EARTHQUAKES. He is known for his weapon, a TRIDENT (a 3-

Question Type Key

KNOWN – SEMI-OPEN – PRIOR KNOWLEDGE – MATH – OPEN – VAKT



pronged spear) which was said to be so powerful it could shake the earth and shatter any object! Poseidon's sacred animals were the BULL, the HORSE and the DOLPHIN. His chariot was pulled by a pair of fish-tailed horses known as HIPPOCAMPUS.

SPELL: POSEIDON, OCEAN, EARTHQUAKES

Poseidon's weapon was a _____. TRIDENT

How many spears does a trident have? 3

What could the trident do? SHAKE THE EARTH, SHATTER

The bull, the horse, and the dolphin were Poseidon's sacred animals, but his chariot was pulled by a pair of fish-tailed horses called _____. HIPPOCAMPUS

A pair is how many? 2

If you had the power to shake the Earth or shatter any object, what would you do with that power?



Poseidon with Hippocampus

Question Type Key

KNOWN – SEMI-OPEN – PRIOR KNOWLEDGE – MATH – OPEN – VAKT



2020 I-ASC All Rights Reserved





APHRODITE was the goddess of LOVE and BEAUTY. The Greeks believed Aphrodite was created from the foam of the sea. She was considered the most beautiful of the gods. Aphrodite's chariot is pulled by DOVES, her sacred animal. Many believe that the dove represents LOVE and PEACE.

SPELL: APHRODITE, DOVE, PEACE

Aphrodite was created from the foam of the _____. SEA

Aphrodite was considered the most _____ of the gods.
BEAUTIFUL

The dove is believed to represent _____. LOVE, PEACE

How do you think a chariot can be pulled by doves?



Aphrodite and Her Chariot Pulled by Doves

ATHENA, DAUGHTER of Zeus, was the goddess of WAR. While she was praised for her COMPASSION and GENEROSITY, she was also known as a FIERCE and RUTHLESS (showing no pity or compassion) warrior. Her sacred animal was an OWL, the source

Question Type Key

KNOWN – SEMI-OPEN – PRIOR KNOWLEDGE – MATH – OPEN – VAKT



of her WISDOM and JUDGEMENT. The owl also has exceptional NIGHT VISION (able to see in very low light), symbolizing Athena's ability to "see" when others cannot.

SPELL: ATHENA, WAR, FIERCE

Athena is Zeus' _____. DAUGHTER

Showing no pity or compassion is described as _____.
RUTHLESS

The owl is the source of Athena's _____. WISDOM,
JUDGEMENT

The owl has very good night vision. What other animals can see in very low light?

Athena was known to be both ruthless and compassionate as the goddess of war. Why do you think someone could be described as both?



Athena With Her OWL

Question Type Key

KNOWN – SEMI-OPEN – PRIOR KNOWLEDGE – MATH – OPEN – VAKT



APOLLO was the son of Zeus and twin brother of Artemis. He was the god of healing, medicine, archery, music, poetry and the sun. Since Apollo was the god of healing, he performed purification ceremonies for mortals who had committed immoral acts. Apollo's sacred animals included the DOLPHIN, the WOLF, and the SWAN. It is said that he flew with the swans to HYPERBOREAN (a town in the far north said to be inhabited by giants) in the winter months. Apollo left Greece in the AUTUMN to spend the winter in the far North, for a life of music, song and art, and returned to Greece in the spring, in a chariot drawn by northern swans.

SPELL: APOLLO, DOLPHIN, WOLF, SWAN

The town in the far north said to be inhabited by giants is called____. HYPERBOREAN

Apollo left for Hyperborean in the _____. AUTUMN

What countries can you name that are in the far north?

Question Type Key

KNOWN – SEMI-OPEN – PRIOR KNOWLEDGE – MATH – OPEN – VAKT



2020 I-ASC All Rights Reserved





Apollo on a Swan

ARTEMIS was daughter to Zeus and Apollo's twin. She was the goddess of wild animals, the hunt, vegetation, and the protector of young girls. She was known to use a BOW and ARROW. DEER were the only animals sacred to Artemis, and her chariot was pulled by five golden horned deer.

SPELL: ARTEMIS, BOW, ARROW

The only animals sacred to Artemis were _____. DEER

How many gold horned deer pulled Artemis' chariot? 5

What would you consider to be a wild animal?

Question Type Key

KNOWN – SEMI-OPEN – PRIOR KNOWLEDGE – MATH – OPEN – VAKT



Artemis with a Deer

The list goes on! There are over 2,500 GODS and GODDESSES, and each of them has at least one sacred animal. Each sacred animal was chosen because they symbolized an ATTRIBUTE (a quality or feature regarded as a CHARACTERISTIC) that was important to a specific god or goddess.

SPELL: GODS, GODDESSES, ATTRIBUTE

An attribute is a quality or feature regarded as a ____.
CHARACTERISTIC

There are over how many gods and goddesses? 2500

Creative Writing

Greek gods had sacred animals that complemented some of their best attributes or that served as companions to them. Think of

Question Type Key

KNOWN – SEMI-OPEN – PRIOR KNOWLEDGE – MATH – OPEN – VAKT



some of your best attributes. What animal might best represent you and why? What animal would you choose as a companion and why?



Laura Noll is an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher and an S2C practitioner in training. She identifies most with Athena because she is COMPASSIONATE but FIERCE! If she had to choose an animal, it would be her dog, Lucy. Lucy can be described as CRAZY and OBSESSED with tennis balls.

Sources:

<https://www.theoi.com/articles/who-is-the-greek-god-of-animals/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Greek_mythological_creatures

<https://greatgreekmyths.weebly.com/sacred-animals.html>

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/greece/greek-gods/>

<https://www.theoi.com/Pantheon.html>

The mission of I-ASC is to advance communication access for nonspeaking individuals globally through training, education, advocacy and research. I-ASC supports all forms of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) with a focus on methods of spelling and typing. I-ASC currently offers Practitioner training in Spelling to Communicate (S2C) with the hope that other methods of AAC using spelling or typing will join our association

Question Type Key

KNOWN – SEMI-OPEN – PRIOR KNOWLEDGE – MATH – OPEN – VAKT



2020 I-ASC All Rights Reserved

