

# Greek Alphabet

Α α	alpha	A	a as in “water”
Β β	beta	B	
Γ γ	gamma	G	hard g as in “girl”
Δ δ	delta	D	
Ε ε	epsilon	E	short e
Ζ ζ	zeta	Z	
Η η	eta	H	short e as in “bread” or the “ay” sound
Θ θ	theta	Q	th as in “thank”
Ι ι	iota	I	same as eta or short i sound as in “hit”
Κ κ	kappa	K	
Λ λ	lamda	L	
Μ μ	mu	M	
Ν ν	nu	N	
Ξ ξ	xi	X	
Ο ο	omicron	O	o as in “tone” or short o as in “pot”
Π π	pi	P	
Ρ ρ	rho	R	
Σ σ	sigma	S	
Τ τ	tau	T	
Υ υ	upsilon	Y or U	y as in “myth” or short u as in “mud”
Φ φ	phi	F	
Χ χ	chi	CH	
Ψ ψ	psi	PS	
Ω ω	omega	W	o as in “tow”



# DECODING GREEK MESSAGES

**Directions:** Use the Greek alphabet chart to decode the message below.

Μ	ο	υ	ν	τ	Ο	λ	υ	μ	π	υ	σ	ι	σ
τ	η	ε	η	ο	μ	ε	ο	φ	τ	η	ε		
Γ	ρ	ε	ε	κ	γ	ο	δ	σ	α	ν	δ		
γ	ο	δ	δ	ε	σ	σ	ε	σ	.				

**Directions:** Write the message below in the Greek alphabet. Cut it out and ask a family member to decode it on a separate sheet of paper.

Greek mythology is fun to know!

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# Lesson 1: Ancient Greece

## Getting Started

### ? Big Ideas

- What do the stories of a culture teach us about the beliefs and values of the culture?
- What consequences can result from the desire for power?

### Facts and Definitions

- Know the roots from Set 1 of your Beyond Roots II card game.

### ⦿ Skills

- Use knowledge of Greek, Latin, and Anglo-Saxon roots and affixes to understand content-area vocabulary. (LA)
- Determine the meaning of grade-level academic English words derived from Latin, Greek, or other linguistic roots and affixes. (LA)

## Introducing the Lesson

Today your child will begin his study of Greek mythology. Ask your child to describe what he already knows about Greek mythology.

## Reading and Questions (with Answers)

1. Why do you think the Greeks chose to worship gods that looked and acted like perfect people instead of worshipping "ugly gods" like people in other parts of the world?
  - Answers will vary.
2. Summarize the Greek creation story in two sentences.
  - Answers will vary but should include that Gaea (the Earth) came out of darkness long ago and fell in love with the Sky (Uranus), and she became mother of all living things. The Titans were the first children of Mother Earth and were the first gods. From Mother Earth sprang the trees, flowers, beasts, and early man.
3. Have you heard creation stories from other cultures or religions that are similar to or different from the Greek one? Explain.
  - Answers will vary.

## Activities

### Activity 1: Greek Alphabet

Check to see that your child correctly decoded the first messages and translated the second message using the answer key .

Your child may wonder why some sounds don't translate as directly as others, or may ask why one letter can stand for more than one sound (such as the upsilon in Olympus that is used for both the y and the u). You can discuss with him how languages and pronunciations change over time, so we have to use our thinking skills to form the most likely translation from one language to another.

*Answer Key***Decoding Greek Messages (From Greek to English):**

Mount Olympus is the home of the Greek gods and goddesses.

**Decoding Greek Messages (From English to Greek):**

Γρεκ μυθολογυ ις φυν το κνωω!

**Activity 2: Beyond Roots II**

Play one of the Beyond Roots II card games with your child or encourage him to play it with a sibling. Today he will explore the Set 1 cards, play games with them, and then take a short quiz on the roots' meanings.

During this unit, your child will take two quizzes for each set of cards — an A quiz on the roots' meaning and a B quiz where your child must apply his knowledge of root meanings. (There are also quizzes that combine all three sets.) After your child completes a quiz, you will receive an email with the quiz results. Note that your child can take the quizzes more than once.

NOTE: Some roots can have more than one meaning. The Beyond Roots II cards use the most common meanings.

**Wrapping Up****Questions to Discuss**

- Do you think you will enjoy learning Greek mythology? Why or why not?
- Who was Zeus mother? How did she save Zeus? (Cronus' wife, Rhea. She hid Zeus and tricked Cronus into swallowing a stone instead of his son.)

**Things to Review**

Review the Beyond Roots II Set 1 roots and their meanings.