

IN BRIEF

Dionysus and Ariadne is an Ancient Greek story about the fun-loving god of grapes and wine, who went on an adventure and met his wife-to-be. This pack is full of facts and activities about the Greek gods!



1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- If students don't recognise a word in this month's magazine, they can turn to the **Storytime Glossary**. It has definitions for any unusual words in the issue. Why not ask them to pick their favourite new word?
- The story of Dionysus and Ariadne might be the first Greek myth that some kids have read – but others might already love ancient stories about Greek gods and heroes. The questions on the **Class Discussion Sheet** will encourage them to talk about what they know about the beliefs of the Ancient Greeks. They could also discuss other myths and legends they are familiar with.
- The **Reading Comprehension Sheet** asks students to find verbs and adjectives, and also introduces indefinite pronouns like *somebody*, *nobody* and *everybody*. There's even an exercise where they get to use these words!
- The **Story Sequencing Sheet** lists the events in this month's myth, but they are jumbled up! Kids must use their knowledge of the story to put them back in the right order. Encourage them to reread the story if they are not sure about what happened when!
- Ancient myths and legends were retold many times over the centuries before they were written down! Now, students can retell the tale of Dionysus in their own way on the **Storyboard** sheets – they just need to write about what happened to the characters under the illustrations.
- Dionysus is different from most of the gods in the Greek pantheon because he didn't take himself very seriously! The questions on the **Character Sheet: Dionysus** page will get students to think about what they learned about him and his personality in the story.

Continued on page 2...

1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS CONTINUED

- The class will find out about the other members of Dionysus's divine family on the **Greatest Greek Gods!** page. The facts on this sheet will be useful for completing the next three exercises as well. You could ask the students if they remember anything about these gods from other stories they might have read in **Storytime!**
- The **Which God is Which?** page has questions that students can answer, based on the facts they learned on the **Greatest Greek Gods!** sheet. Can they choose the best word to describe each of the five gods on the page? There is also another exercise where they have to choose which god would be best for solving particular problems...
- Following on from the previous two sheets, the **Ancient Super Hero!** writing exercise challenges kids to write a story about an Ancient Greek kid who is having a problem – and gets help from one of the gods. The fun part is deciding what the problem is and how the god would use their super power to fix it!
- The Greeks use an alphabet that is similar to our own – but definitely not the same! The **It's Greek to Me!** sheet has a key that lists the Greek letters and their closest equivalents in our alphabet. Can the students work out what the four gods on the page are saying by using the key?
- Greek mythology was very popular with the Romans, and they even borrowed and renamed some Greek gods. The **Greek vs Roman Mythology** page has the names of Greek gods and their Roman equivalents on jigsaw-style pieces. The pieces should be printed and cut out. Then, kids should try to match up the Greek gods with the Roman versions. Do they know more gods by their Greek names or their Roman ones?
- The Greeks weren't the only ancient people to have a fascinating mythology full of cool gods and heroes! The **Mythology Around the World** sheet lists five amazing mythologies to check out – and it even tells you where to find tales from each one in **Storytime**. It could be fun to get kids to choose a story and then write a brief paragraph about it and the culture it came from.

Continued on page 3...

2. SCIENCE LESSON IDEA

- Grapes were very important to the Ancient Greeks – that was why they prayed to Dionysus! The **Amazing Grapes!** sheets tell you all about the things that can be made from grapes and the plants they come from. This could lead to a discussion about things that are produced by other plants.

3. MATHS LESSON IDEA

- The **Myth Maths!** page challenges students to use their maths skills to solve sums inspired by the story of Dionysus and Ariadne. Encourage them to sketch out or visualise the problems!

4. ART LESSON IDEA

- The Ancient Greeks were famous for their pottery, which was often decorated with pictures inspired by myths and legends. The **Decorate a Greek Vase!** sheet has a blank vase which kids can draw a scene from this month's myth on. Get them to choose an image and sketch it out before they start drawing. You could show them pictures of real Greek vases as inspiration – but you might want to check if the figures on the vases you show them are sufficiently clothed first. (The Ancient Greeks often depicted naked figures on their vases.)

5. MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- In this month's story, Dionysus kept calm when he was faced with danger. The story could be used to start a discussion about managing your emotions when things get difficult. We might not have Dionysus's powers, but there are skills that we can develop to cope with strong feelings and difficult situations! This link could be useful:
<https://mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/tools-for-managing-emotions/>

STORYTIME GLOSSARY

Find definitions for any words you don't know!

The Hare with Many Friends (Page 6)

- ▷ **Popular** – liked by many people
- ▷ **Water voles** – rodents that live in streams
- ▷ **Hip** – cool and fashionable
- ▷ **Shrugged** – moved his shoulders up
- ▷ **Cud** – partly digested grass
- ▷ **Lurking** – hiding in a menacing way
- ▷ **Edgy** – dark and exciting-seeming
- ▷ **Fashionable** – stylish at the moment
- ▷ **Squeaked** – said in a high-pitched voice
- ▷ **Flopped down** – fell down limply

Philomena's Happy Place (Page 9)

- ▷ **Radiator** – device that warms houses
- ▷ **Pampered** – took very good care of
- ▷ **Demolished** – knocked down
- ▷ **Allotments** – little areas for gardening
- ▷ **Townfolk** – people living in a town
- ▷ **Overgrown** – covered with plants
- ▷ **Shimmied** – wiggled her body
- ▷ **Flaked off** – fallen off in flakes
- ▷ **Rickety** – shaky and likely to fall apart
- ▷ **Saucers** – small dishes for holding cups
- ▷ **Hoed** – broke up soil with a hoe
- ▷ **Flourished** – grew in a healthy way
- ▷ **Petition** – request signed by many people
- ▷ **Ruling** – official judgement

The Wonder Games (Page 14)

- ▷ **Echoed around** – bounced around
- ▷ **Croquet** – ball game played with mallets
- ▷ **Mallet** – kind of hammer
- ▷ **Dizzy** – feeling off-balance as if spinning
- ▷ **Recite** – say aloud
- ▷ **Admit** – say that it was true

Bunbuku the Tea-Kettle (Page 16)

- ▷ **Craftsmen** – people who make things
- ▷ **Smith** – person who works with metal
- ▷ **Shrine** – holy place
- ▷ **Bric-a-brac** – different kinds of junk
- ▷ **Parasol** – umbrella to protect from sun
- ▷ **Go on tour** – travel to perform shows
- ▷ **Exhausted** – very tired

The Wonderful Sheep (Page 21)

- ▷ **Carefree** – without anything to worry about
- ▷ **Suffer** – experience
- ▷ **Wilderness** – wild area
- ▷ **Magnificent** – grand and impressive
- ▷ **Unafraid** – not scared
- ▷ **Trailed** – dragged
- ▷ **Domain** – area that is ruled
- ▷ **Bowers** – hidden shady areas
- ▷ **Solemnly** – in a serious way
- ▷ **Lost her temper** – got angry
- ▷ **Subjects** – people who are ruled
- ▷ **Companions** – people who are with you
- ▷ **Basin** – big bowl for water

Continued on page 2...

STORYTIME GLOSSARY

2 OF 2

The Little Dragon (Page 30)

- ▷ **Horoscope** – set of star signs
- ▷ **Obsessed with** – extremely interested in
- ▷ **Autographs** – bits of paper signed by him
- ▷ **Cheeky** – impolite in a funny way
- ▷ **Starring role** – main part
- ▷ **Pranks** – tricks and jokes
- ▷ **Squared** – made them square
- ▷ **Thumbed his nose** – flicked his nose with his thumb to show disrespect
- ▷ **Opponent** – person he is challenging
- ▷ **Sidekick** – person who helps a hero

Dionysus and Ariadne (Page 36)

- ▷ **Blowing a raspberry** – making a rude noise with their mouth
- ▷ **Dawn** – when the sun comes up
- ▷ **Dip** – little swim
- ▷ **Ransom** – money paid to have a prisoner set free
- ▷ **Helmsman** – person who steers a boat
- ▷ **Clusters** – bunches
- ▷ **Blubber** – thick layer of fat
- ▷ **Smitten** – in love
- ▷ **Amethyst** – purple semi-precious gem
- ▷ **Immortality** – living forever

The Heron's Feather (Page 41)

- ▷ **Peculiar** – strange
- ▷ **The talk of the town** – the thing that everybody is talking about
- ▷ **Gossip** – silly talk about other people
- ▷ **Flock** – group
- ▷ **Like wildfire** – very quickly
- ▷ **Rumours** – stories that may not be true

I am the Ancient
Greek god of the grape
harvest, wine making, orchards
and fruit, plants, fertility,
festivals, madness and theatre!
Yes, that's me!



CLASS DISCUSSION SHEET

LET'S TALK ABOUT... **Greek Mythology!** This story introduces us to some of the Greek gods. How much do you know about them? Answer these questions to start a discussion about Ancient Greek myths and religion!

- 1.** Which country are the Greek myths originally from? What was the difference between humans and gods in their mythology?

- 2.** According to the story, where do the Greek gods mostly live? Do you know who their chief god was?

- 3.** In Greek mythology, each god rules over a different area of life. In this month's myth, which gods are we introduced to? What are they gods of? Can you name any other Greek gods?

- 4.** A religion that has one god is called *monotheistic*, while a religion with many gods is *polytheistic*. Which one do you think the Ancient Greek religion was?

GODS FOR MODERN TIMES

If the Ancient Greeks were still around, what modern things do you think they might have gods of? What might the new gods be called?

_____ **the god of** _____

_____ **the god of** _____

_____ **the god of** _____

_____ **the god of** _____

READING COMPREHENSION SHEET

See if you can find three verbs, an adjective and a word related to frequency in this extract from the story of Dionysus and Ariadne!

“

Sometimes, human shepherds and travellers would come by and join in. Everybody would laugh and dance and enjoy Dionysus's gift of wine until the dawn came!

One morning, Dionysus needed to relax after an all-night celebration. He transformed into a young man and took a stroll down to the beach.

”

1. What is the word in the first paragraph that tells you *how often* the things described in it happened?

2. Verbs are 'doing words'. What three verbs describe what people did at Dionysus's all-night parties?

3. Adjectives are describing words that tell us what things are like. Can you find the adjective in the last sentence? Also, what is the opposite of that word?

4. What do you think 'stroll' means? What word could you replace it with?

INDEFINITELY MAYBE!

Nobody, everybody and somebody are words called 'indefinite pronouns' – they refer to one or more people without saying exactly who they are! Which of these words works best in each of these sentences?

_____ drank my tea!

_____ is at home!

_____ breathes air!

ANSWERS: 1. Sometimes. 2. Laugh, dance and enjoy. 3. Young – and the opposite is old. 4. 'Stroll' means 'walk'. Indefinitely Maybe! Somebody drank my tea; Nobody is at home; Everybody breathes air!

STORY SEQUENCING SHEET

This month's myth is all mixed up on the page below! Fix it by numbering the different sections to show the order they should be read in.

Dionysus made a giant grapevine grow out of the sea. It knocked the pirates into the water, and Dionysus turned them into dolphins.

He left the home of the gods and wandered across the land. At night, he would party with nature spirits, satyrs, shepherds and travellers.

Dionysus asked her to come to a party with him that night, and she agreed. Dionysus fell in love with her and asked her to marry him.

When he woke up, he was surrounded by pirates! They thought he was a prince and took him prisoner.

Acoetes, the helmsman of the pirate ship, said that there was something strange about their captive, but the captain didn't listen.

The only pirate who was not changed into a dolphin was Acoetes. The helmsman suggested that they sail to the island of Naxos.

The Greek gods were talking about how much they liked living on Mount Olympus – but Dionysus, the god of wine, said it was boring!

When she woke up, the lady told Dionysus that her name was Ariadne. She was the daughter of King Minos of Crete.

When they arrived at Naxos, Dionysus walked around the island. He found a lady sleeping in an olive grove.

Dionysus agreed! The god gave her a huge amethyst and made her immortal so they could live together forever.

One morning, Dionysus went for a swim in the sea and then took a nap on the beach.

NAME _____

CLASS _____

STORYBOARD

1 OF 2

The tale of Dionysus and Ariadne has been retold many times – and now you can tell your own version. Write what happened under the pictures!

1



2



3



4



NAME _____

CLASS _____

STORYBOARD

2 OF 2

5



6



QUICK FACTS ABOUT ARIADNE!

Here are some facts you might not know about the heroine of this month's myth – one of the cleverest characters in Greek mythology!

- ✦ Ariadne's dad was Minos, the king of the island of Crete. He had a huge maze called the Labyrinth, built by Daedalus the inventor.
- ✦ Minos put a ferocious bull-headed monster called the Minotaur in the Labyrinth. But Ariadne helped the Greek hero Theseus kill the

Minotaur and find his way out of the maze by giving him a sword and a ball of thread!

- ✦ When Ariadne married Dionysus, she was given a crown by Aphrodite. The Corona Borealis constellation of stars was called 'The Crown of Ariadne' in her honour!
- ✦ Ariadne became the goddess of weaving, and she was often worshipped on Crete.

CHARACTER SHEET: DIONYSUS

Dionysus was definitely the most fun and friendly of the Greek gods. Answer these questions about him and his powers!



Which three words would you use to describe Dionysus?

How did Dionysus act when he was faced with danger?

Why did people like to spend time with Dionysus?

In the story, a giant grapevine attacked the pirates. Draw some magic grapes here!



What are some things about Dionysus that could be annoying?

Apart from wine and grapes, what other things do you think Dionysus could be the god of? Think of places, jobs and events!

GREATEST GREEK GODS!

Here are the facts you need to know about the most famous Greek gods. Which one do you like best?

ZEUS

God of the sky and thunder, and ruler of the gods!

Fun fact: He can throw thunderbolts at people who anger him!



HERA

Goddess of marriage, children and family!

Fun fact: Known as the 'Mistress of Animals'. Her sacred animals are the peacock, lion and cow!



APOLLO

God of archery, healing, music, poetry and the sun!

Fun fact: He is supposed to be the handsomest of the Greek gods!



ATHENA

Goddess of wisdom!

Fun fact: Athens, the capital city of Greece, is named after her!



APHRODITE

Goddess of love!

Fun fact: Her son is Cupid, who could make people fall in love by shooting special arrows at them!



ARES

God of war!

Fun fact: Although he is the god of war, in stories he is often defeated by other gods or even human heroes!



DIONYSUS

God of grapes and wine!

Fun fact: While the rest of the gods are very serious, Dionysus loves to laugh and have fun!



POSEIDON

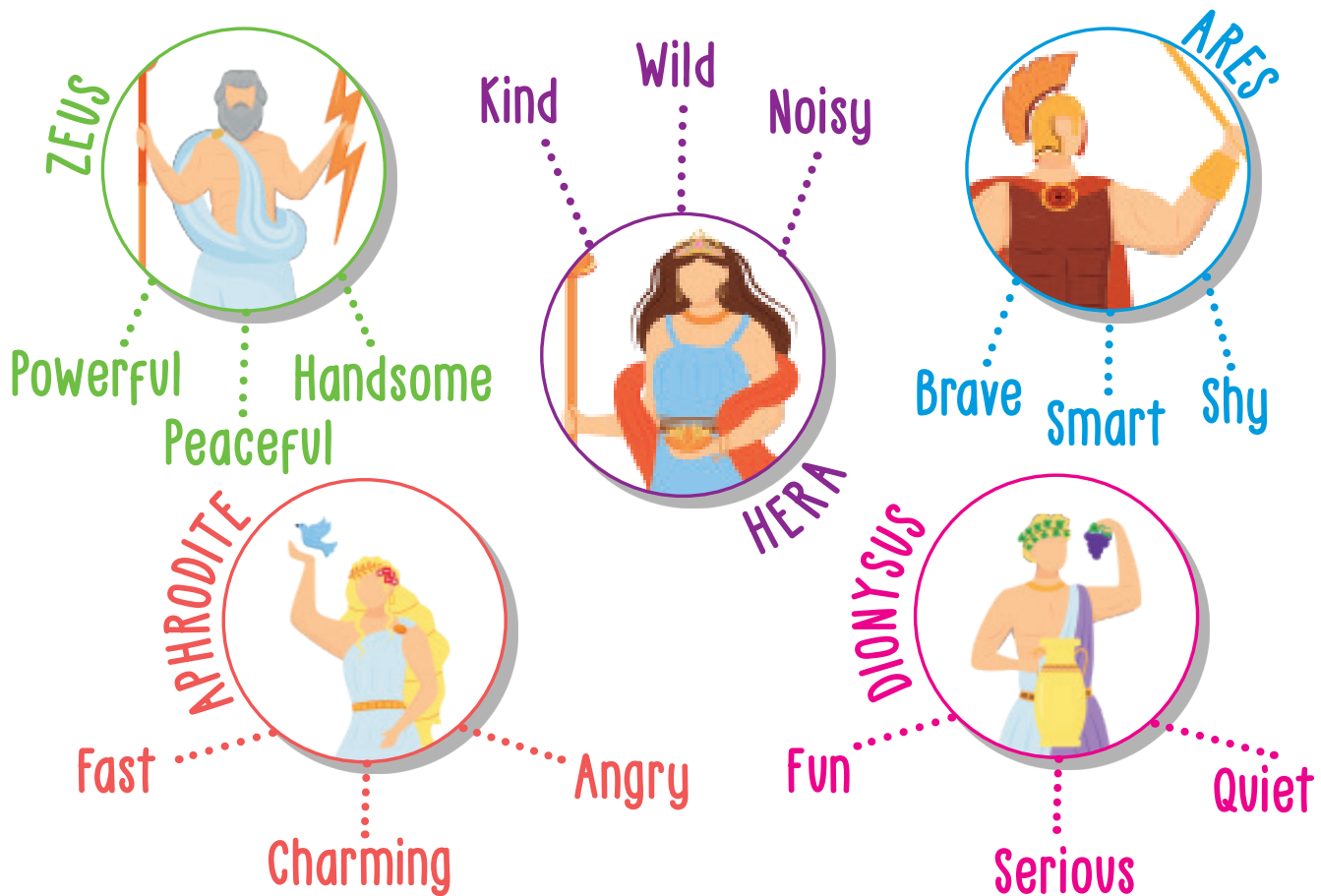
God of the sea!

Fun fact: If he gets angry, he wrecks ships with mighty storms!



WHICH GOD IS WHICH?

Once you have checked out the profiles of the gods on the previous page, choose the words that best describe the gods shown below. Just circle the word that matches each one! Then, decide which god you would want help from in five different situations...



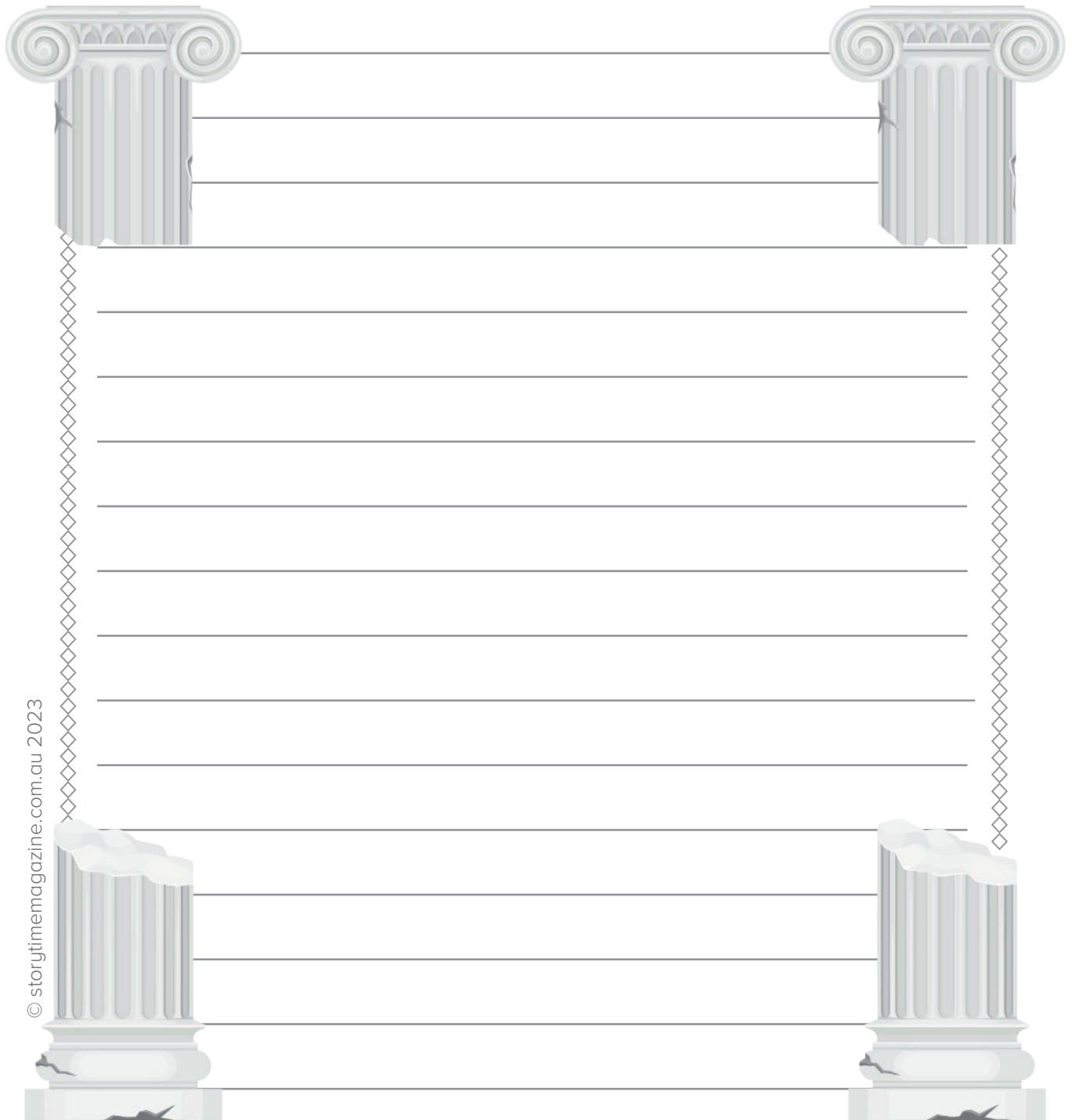
THE HELP YOU NEED!

- If I was feeling ill, I would want help from: _____
- If I was having a party, I would invite: _____
- If I wanted someone to take charge, I would ask: _____
- If I had to fight a monster, I would want to be friends with: _____
- If I wanted someone to like me, I would want help from: _____

ANSWERS: 1. Zeus – powerful, Ares – brave, Hera – kind, Aphrodite – charming, Dionysus – fun.
The Help You Need! A – Hera, B – Dionysus, C – Zeus, D – Ares, E – Aphrodite.

ANCIENT SUPER HEROES!

Write a short story about one of the Greek gods on the previous page!
Imagine that a Greek kid is having a problem. (You get to decide what it is.) Then, a Greek god swoops in to save the day. How would they use their powers to make everything better?



IT'S GREEK TO ME!

The Greek alphabet is a bit different from our own! Can you use the key below to work out what words the gods are saying?

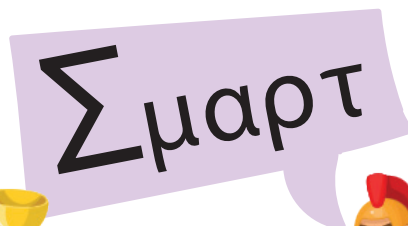
Α α Αα	Β β Ββ	Γ γ Γγ	Δ δ Δδ	Ε ε Εε	Ζ ζ Ζζ
Alpha	Beta	Gamma	Delta	Epsilon	Zeta
Η η Ηη	Θ θ Θθ	Ι ι Ιι	Κ κ Κκ	Λ λ Λλ	Μ μ Μμ
Eta	Theta	Iota	Kappa	Lambda	Mu
Ν ν Νν	Ξ ξ Ξξ	Ο ο Οο	Π π Ππ	Ρ ρ Ρρ	Σ σ Σς
Nu	Xi	Omicron	Pi	Rho	Sigma
Τ τ Ττ	Υ υ Υυ	Φ φ Φφ	Χ χ Χχ	Ψ ψ Ψς	Ω ω Ωω
Tau	Upsilon	Phi	Chi	Psi	Omega



ZEUS



DIONYSUS



ATHENA



POSEIDON

GREEK GUIDE! The Greek alphabet was first used 2800 years ago – it was the first alphabet to have letters for vowels as well as consonants! It is still used in Greece today, and Greek letters are used as symbols in maths and science, such as... ➔

Π = 3.1415...

The Greek letter Pi is used in maths to represent the ratio of the distance around a circle and its diameter. It starts as 3.1415... and goes on forever!

ANSWERS: Zeus – Κινυ, Dionysus – Γραπεο, Athena – Σμαρτ, Poseidon – Στορη.

GREEK VS ROMAN MYTHOLOGY

The Romans liked the Greek gods so much that they ‘borrowed’ them and gave them new Roman names! Cut out the jigsaw pieces below and see which Greek gods match with which Roman names!

GREEK GODS

ROMAN GODS



THE GOD OF SUN AND LIGHT

The Romans kept the original name of one Greek god: Apollo!



ANSWERS: A. – 5, B. – 2, C. – 1, D. – 6, E. – 4, F. – 3.

NAME _____

CLASS _____

MYTHOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD

The Ancient Greeks weren't the only people to have amazing myths and legends – here are some more mythologies that you might like to check out. Match the mythologies with the places marked on the map below!

1. THE DREAMTIME

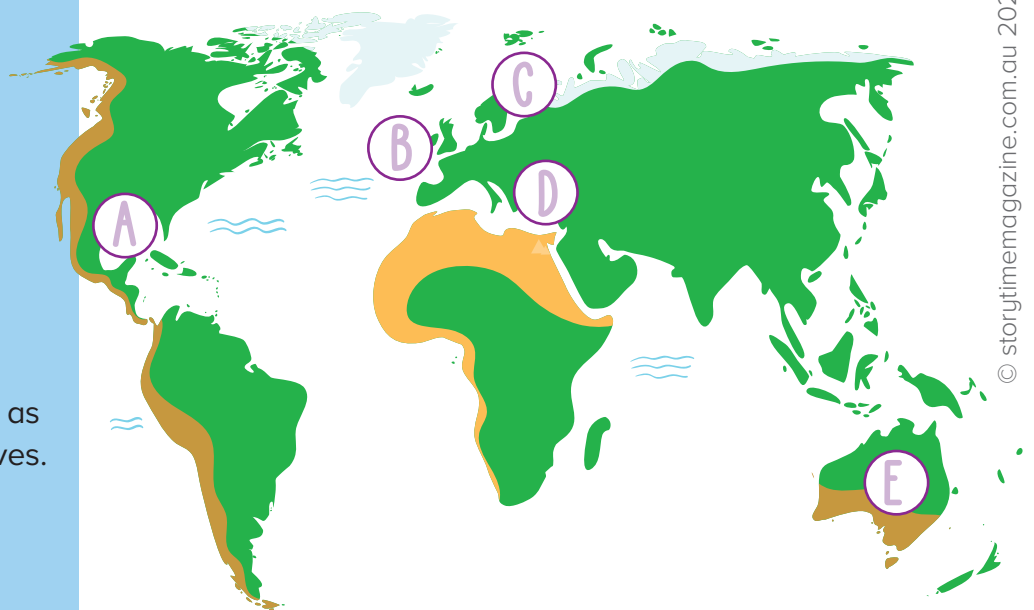
Where: Australia **When:** from 65,000 years ago
These creation stories were passed down through oral traditions, art, songs, dances, and sacred ceremonies. Animal spirits often feature in the myths of the Dreamtime.
Main god: Wandjina, the rainbow snake
Cool character: Byamew

2. CELTIC MYTHOLOGY

Where: Ireland **When:** 600BCE to 410CE
The Celtic gods were members of a family called the Tuatha de Danan. They battled the monstrous Fomorians.
Main god: The Dagda
Cool characters: Oengus and Finn MacCool

3. NORSE MYTHOLOGY

Where: Scandinavia
When: 790 to 1100CE
The Æsir were the main gods in Norse mythology, and they lived in Asgard. Stories feature gods and goddesses as well as giants, dwarves and elves.
Main god: Odin
Cool characters: Thor and Baldur



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4. GREEK MYTHOLOGY

Where: Greece **When:** 1200BCE to 394CE
Tales often feature the gods and goddesses who lived on Mount Olympus and ruled different parts of the world and human life.
Main god: Zeus
Cool characters: Hercules, Poseidon and Athena

5. AZTEC MYTHOLOGY

Where: Mexico **When:** 1300 to 1521CE
The Aztecs believed in powerful gods who made the crops grow and the sun rise – in exchange for sacrifices!
Main god: Huitzilopochtli
Cool characters: Quetzalcoatl and Huachinog-vaneg

ANSWERS: A – 5, B – 2, C – 3, D – 4, E – 1.

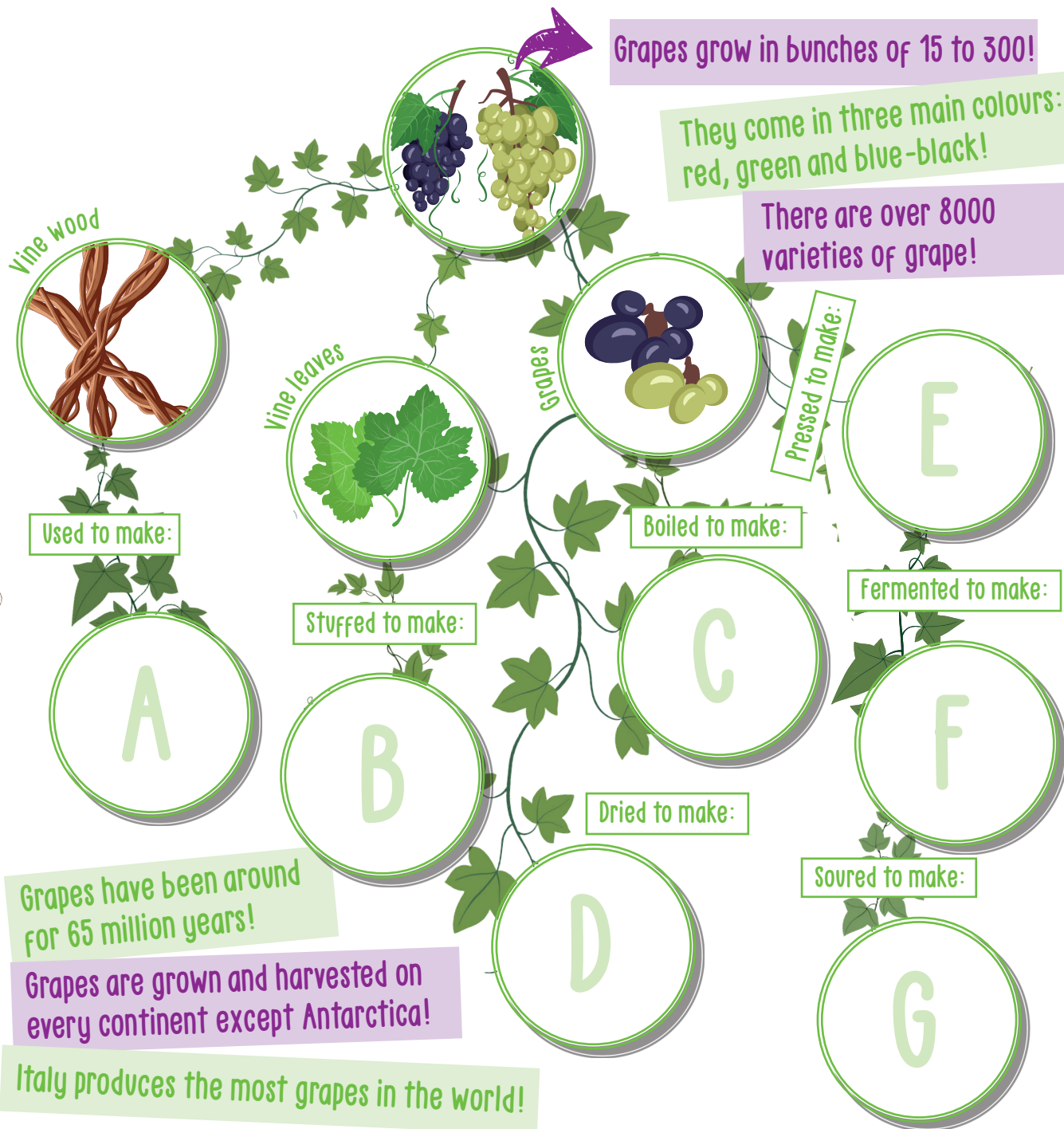
NAME _____

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AMAZING GRAPES!

1 OF 2

Grapevines are amazing plants – no wonder the Ancient Greeks had a god of grapes called Dionysus! Here are just a few things you can make from grapes and vines. Cut out the circles on the next page and use them to fill in the gaps!



ANSWERS: A. – Walking stick, B. – Dolmas, C. – Jam, D. – Raisins, E. – Juice, F. – Wine, G. – Vinegar.

NAME _____

CLASS _____

AMAZING GRAPES!

2 OF 2

Cut out the circles and fill the gaps on **Amazing Grapes! page 1**, but watch out! Some things on this page are NOT made from grapevine products.



Raisins

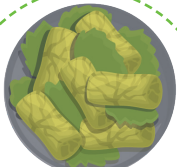
Pottery



Juice



Jam



Dolmas



Salad



Vinegar



Coffee



Wine

Walking stick



Bread



WHAT A GRAPE IDEA!

Grapes and other fruit can be turned into lots of different things. Here are some of the things you can do with them!

Pressing: Crushing the fruit squeezes out the tasty juice!

Fermenting: Yeast turns the sugar in fruit juice into alcohol!

Souring: Wine that goes sour turns into vinegar!

Drying: Fruit that is dried out last much longer!

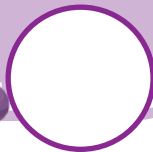
Pickling: Putting fruit in vinegar also helps it to last!

Boiling: Fruit that is boiled with sugar becomes jam!

MYTH MATHS!

Can you solve these equations inspired by this month's story?
If you find a question tricky, try visualising it in your mind!

A. If it takes **two bunches of grapes** to make a jar of wine, how many jars can be made from **eight bunches** of grapes?



B. Dionysus got **twelve jugs of grape juice** for his party, but **a satyr drank five** of them. How many are left?



C. If it would take **three days** to sail to Athens, and Naxos is **three times as far away** as Athens is, how many days would it take **Dionysus** to sail to Naxos?



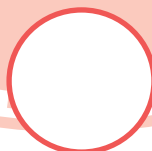
D. If there were **thirteen pirates on the ship** and Dionysus changed **all of them except Acoetes** into dolphins, how many dolphins would there be?



E. Dionysus is having a party for **five nature spirits, six satyrs, two travellers and a shepherd**. How many will be coming in total?



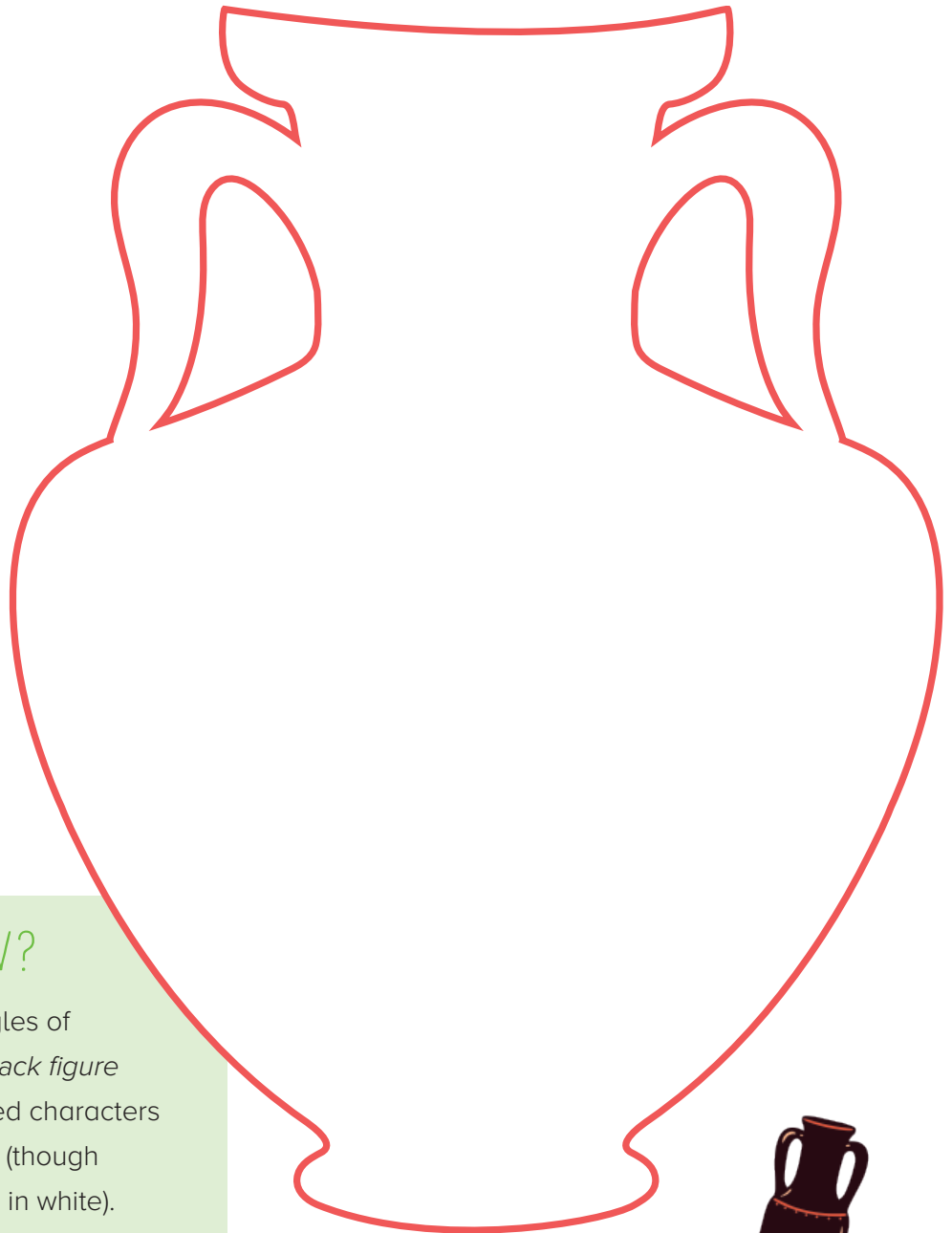
F. Dionysus is playing a tune on a **seven-stringed instrument** called a lyre. If he breaks **five strings**, how many are left?



ANSWERS: A. - 4, B. - 7, C. - 9,
D. - 12, E. - 14, F. - 2.

DECORATE A GREEK VASE!

The Ancient Greeks liked to decorate their pots with characters from mythology. Draw a scene from the story of Dionysus and Ariadne on this vase!



DID YOU KNOW?

There are two famous styles of Ancient Greek pottery. *Black figure pottery* has black-coloured characters on a reddish background (though female figures are shown in white). *Red figure pottery* has reddish figures against a black background. You could try doing your picture in one of these styles – or colour it in any way you like!