

Hook

On the next six pages, you will find cards for students to match. This activity requires you to match three cards. The first contains a company's logo. The second contains the name of the company and its product. The final card provides a description of the origin of the company's name.

For Example



Apollo
the US's human spaceflight
program carried out by
NASA

This is the god of healing,
medicine and archery, and of
music and poetry. He rode his
chariot across sky to bring
light to the world.

Because printing these cards would require six pages for each student, I recommend having students work in small groups to match the cards. A digital option through Google Slides is also provided for classrooms who have 1 to 1 devices.

Digital Option

You must save this Google Slide presentation to your Google Drive to make this editable. Here is [the link](#) to get the presentation.

Discussion

What do the match-up cards have in common?

The cards contain company names or logos that were named after myths (mostly Greek).

Hundreds of companies take their name or logo from Greek mythology. Can you name some that were not on the cards?

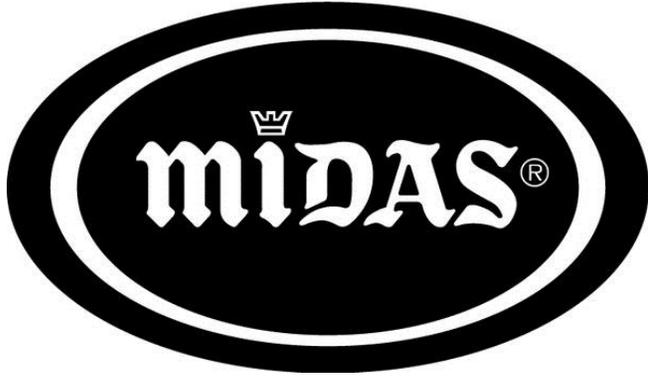
Example Answers

- Olympus Camera
- Atlas Van Lines and Atlas Travel

Many phrases we use in everyday life come from myths especially Greek myths. In this lesson, you are going to learn the meanings of some of these phrases by studying their origins.

Teaching Standard

"Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean)."



Midas
automotive service

This foolish King loved gold so much that the god Dionysus rewarded him with the ability to turn everything he touched to gold.



NBC Peacock
television network

In this myth, Argos was an all seeing monster with a hundred eyes. The goddess Hera removed his eyes and transferred them to the tail of the peacock.



Minnesota Vikings
professional football
team

This group of Scandinavians were known for their fierce fighting skills.

JUST DO IT.


Nike, Inc.
sports clothing and
shoes

This winged goddess of speed, strength, and victory drove Zeus's chariot above battlefields giving glory to the victors.



Starbucks
coffee

These twin tailed sirens were dangerous sea creatures known for their beauty and melodious music. They lured seamen and sailors into death.

PANDORA

Pandora Jewelry

Her box contained all the evils of the world. When she opened the box, the evils were released into the world, but hope remained in the box.



Goodyear
tire and rubber
company

The winged shoe represents the Greek Hermes [Roman Mercury] who wore winged shoes that gave him speed to help him perform his duties.



Amazon
online shopping

These were a race of mighty warrior women.



Trident Gum

The trident was the three pronged (three-toothed) spear that belonged to Poseidon, the god of the sea. This product contains three enzymes that help fight tooth decay.



Dove Soap

This is Aphrodite's (the goddess of beauty and love) symbol.



The Tennessee Titans
professional football
team

The Titans were the parents of
Zeus, Hades, and Poseidon.



Saturn
automotive company

This company named its car
after a series of rockets used by
NASA. NASA named its rocket
after the Roman god of sowing.
He ruled during the golden age and
taught his people about
agriculture and other peaceful
arts.



Ajax
household cleaner

This Greek warrior "cleaned up" in battle without the help of others.



Mobile
oil and gas company

This winged horse could fly showing dedication to travel.



FTD
Flower Delivery
Company

Hermes's winged feet help him deliver messages.



Venus
razor for women

This Roman name for the goddess of beauty is perfect for representing a beauty product for women.



Gatorade
sports drink

The lightning bolt is one of Zeus's symbols representing his strength.



Oracle
database management
system

Oracles were portals through which gods spoke directly to people.

Activity

Students will use context clues to determine the meanings of the mythological, biblical, literary, and historical allusions.

Answer Key

Achilles heel - a vulnerable point

Nemesis - an opponent or enemy that is very difficult to defeat

Herculean - very large, difficult, powerful, etc.

Why does the girl want Cupid to shoot his arrow? The girl has a crush on the boy. She wishes the boy would fall in love with her.

if looks could kill - someone looked at another person in a very angry way

Goliath - any large person or thing – someone or something that is abnormally large or powerful

Samaritan - a person who helps other people and especially strangers when they have trouble

kill the fatted calf - to begin a festive celebration and rejoice someone's long-awaited return.

Peter Pan Syndrome - phenomenon of immaturity among some men and women remain childish and fail to assume appropriate adult social roles and responsibilities

Pollyanna - an excessively cheerful or optimistic person

Benedict Arnold – to label a person as a traitor

Casanova – a man who has many girlfriends, can be used as a compliment or insult depending on its usage in the sentence

fiddling while Rome burns – to take little to no productive action during a crisis

Waterloo – a final defeat

sell down the river – betray

Extensions

#1 Youtube Videos

[Greek Allusions 4th Grade - YouTube](#)

[Allusions to Greek Myths in popular music by Mrs. Rodd](#)

[Greek Mythology and Allusions](#)

#2 Free Lessons using Greek Myths

These blog posts include free printable versions of the stories. You will also find vocabulary practice, comprehension questions, and a writing prompt.

[Teaching the Greek Myth Arachne the Spinner](#)

[Teaching the Greek Myth Orpheus and Eurydice](#)

[Teaching the Greek Myth Daedalus and Icarus](#)

Mythological Allusions

<p>When Achilles was a baby his mother made him indestructible by holding him by the heel as she dipped him into the River Styx. Achilles was completely covered with water except where his mother held him.</p>	<p>I was able to stick to my diet until I saw the chocolate cake. Cake is my <u>Achilles heel</u>.</p>	<p>What is an <u>Achilles heel</u>?</p>	<p>Use <u>Achilles heel</u> in a sentence.</p>
<p>Nemesis was the Greek goddesses of revenge. She gave out punishments to the mortals who did wrong to the gods.</p>	<p>Beth became upset when her <u>nemesis</u> won the contest.</p>	<p>What is a <u>nemesis</u>?</p>	<p>Use <u>nemesis</u> in a sentence.</p>
<p>Hercules was known for his strength and courage. He completed the 12 Labors which required him to do things like kill the Nemean Lion and capture the Cretan Bull.</p>	<p>Climbing Mount Everest is a <u>Herculean</u> feat.</p>	<p>What does <u>Herculean</u> mean?</p>	<p>Use <u>Herculean</u> in a sentence.</p>
<p>Cupid was the Roman god of love. His bow and arrow are the source of his power.</p>	<p>The young girl stared at the boy across the room hoping <u>Cupid</u> would shoot his arrow.</p>	<p>Why does the girl want <u>Cupid</u> to shoot his arrow?</p>	<p>Use <u>Cupid</u> in a sentence.</p>
<p>Medusa was a monster in Greek mythology who had the power to turn anyone who looked at her to stone.</p>	<p><u>If looks could kill</u>, I'd be dead right now.</p>	<p>What does <u>if looks could kill</u> mean?</p>	<p>Use <u>if looks could kill</u> in a sentence.</p>

Biblical Allusions

<p><u>Goliath</u> was a nine-foot tall warrior who was killed by a small boy named David. David used his slingshot to throw a stone at Goliath's head killing him.</p>	<p><i>American Idol</i> is the <u>Goliath</u> of all singing competition shows.</p>	<p>What does <u>Goliath</u> mean?</p>	<p>Use <u>Goliath</u> in a sentence.</p>
<p>The <u>Good Samaritan</u> is a parable told by Jesus of a Jewish traveler who was left beaten and robbed along the side of the road. A Samaritan, an enemy of the Jews, helped the injured man.</p>	<p>We had a flat tire on the highway but fortunately a <u>Good Samaritan</u> stopped to help us change it.</p>	<p>What does <u>Good Samaritan</u> mean?</p>	<p>Use <u>Good Samaritan</u> in a sentence.</p>
<p>This parable tells of a son who took his inheritance and left home. After spending all his money, the son returned home. Instead of turning him away, his father <u>killed the fatted calf</u> to have food for a celebration.</p>	<p>My father <u>killed the fatted calf</u> when I returned from a semester of study in Europe.</p>	<p>What does <u>kill the fatted calf</u> mean?</p>	<p>Use <u>kill the fatted calf</u> in a sentence.</p>

Literary Allusions

<p><u>Peter Pan</u> was the leader of the Lost Boys who interacted with fairies, pirates, mermaids, and Native Americans. This free-spirited young boy frequently got into trouble and never grows up.</p>	<p>Jim won't go out and look for a job. It's the <u>Peter Pan Syndrome</u> to the extreme.</p>	<p>What is a <u>Peter Pan Syndrome</u>?</p>	<p>Use <u>Peter Pan Syndrome</u> in a sentence.</p>
<p><u>Pollyanna</u> was an extremely poor girl who remained cheerfully optimistic even during challenging times.</p>	<p>A naïve <u>Pollyanna</u>, Little Red Riding Hood skipped through the woods blissfully unaware of the danger.</p>	<p>If you call someone a <u>Pollyanna</u>, what characteristic does the person have?</p>	<p>Use <u>Pollyanna</u> in a sentence.</p>

Historical Allusions

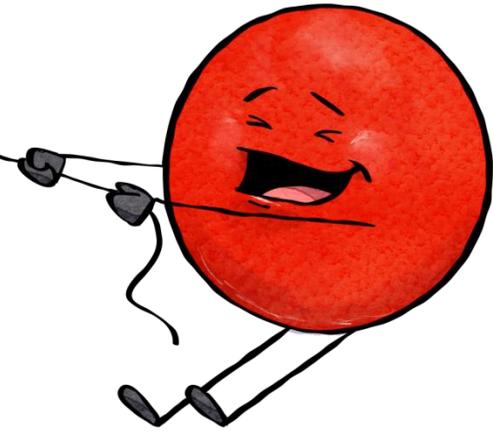
<p><u>Benedict Arnold</u> was an American general during the Revolutionary War who switched to the British side of the war after being passed over by Congress for a promotion.</p>	<p>I saw Samantha hanging out with the crowd that teased me. She really pulled a <u>Benedict Arnold</u>.</p>	<p>What does it mean to be called a <u>Benedict Arnold</u>?</p>	<p>Use <u>Benedict Arnold</u> in a sentence.</p>
<p><u>Casanova</u> was a smooth talker who charmed women. He pretended to be in love with many leading them on.</p>	<p>He had a terrible reputation as a <u>Casanova</u>. Look at that <u>Casanova</u>, charming all the women.</p>	<p>What is a <u>Casanova</u>?</p>	<p>Use <u>Casanova</u> in a sentence.</p>
<p>Nero was an insane emperor of Rome. He caused the Great Fire in Rome in AD 64, so he would be praised for rebuilding the city. Nero was said to have played his <u>fiddle while Rome burned</u>.</p>	<p>Mary should work harder to save the school dance. Instead she is off playing tennis. She's <u>fiddling while Rome burns</u>.</p>	<p>What does it mean to <u>fiddle while Rome burns</u>?</p>	<p>Use <u>fiddling while Rome burns</u> in a sentence.</p>
<p><u>Waterloo</u> was the location of the final battle where the French emperor Napoleon was defeated and sent into his final exile on the island of Saint Helena.</p>	<p>Peter's <u>waterloo</u> was the 16th hole when his golf ball flew over the green into the watching crowd.</p>	<p>What is a <u>waterloo</u>?</p>	<p>Use <u>Waterloo</u> in a sentence.</p>
<p>Before the Civil War, American slaves were transported down the Mississippi River and sold to cotton plantation owners.</p>	<p>Don't <u>sell me down the river</u>. I need this job. I have a large mortgage payment and a family to feed.</p>	<p>What does <u>sell down the river</u> mean?</p>	<p>Use <u>sell down the river</u> in a sentence.</p>

Credits



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