

**WHAT IS A MYTH?**

# WHAT IS A MYTH?

a traditional story of creation/ believed to be true  
by many but not factual



# WHY WERE MYTHS CREATED?

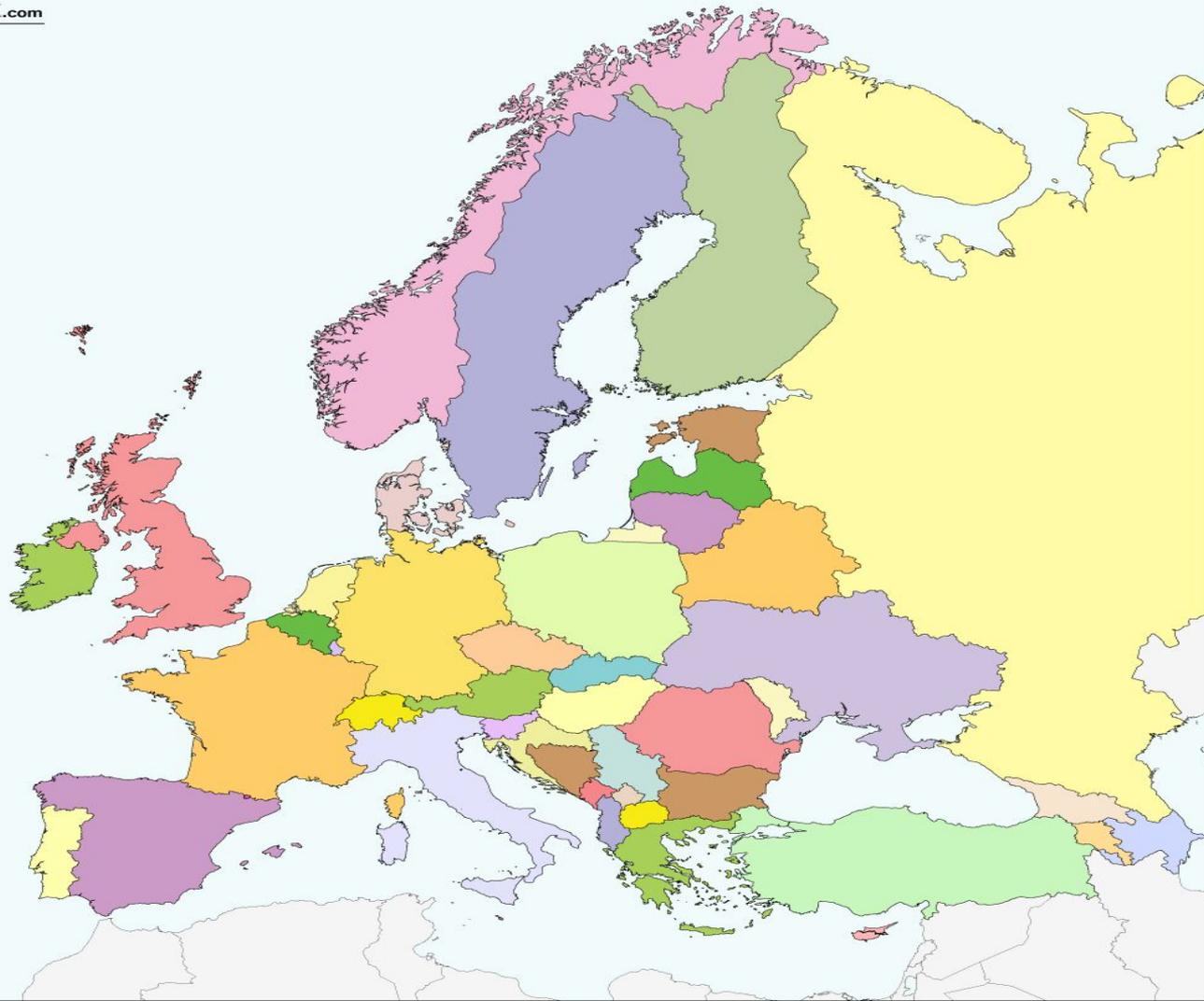
- to explain the unexplainable
- to help make sense of things

The Greeks did NOT create  
these Gods or Goddesses  
for fun - they genuinely  
believed it

In order to understand  
mythology - we have to go  
to the very beginning & get  
to know the people who  
**CREATED THEM!**

# ***ANCIENT GREECE***

# Europe



# When was Ancient Greece?

The term Ancient, or Archaic, Greece refers to the time between 800 B.C. and 500 B.C.



# Greek land

-Mountains make up 70-80% of Greece

-Peninsula

-Many seaports around the coast

(no place in Greece is more than 50 miles from the sea!)

-Mild climate- rainy winters, dry summers





During the so-called **“Greek Dark Ages”** (1200-800 BC) people lived scattered throughout Greece in small farming villages.



This is referred to as the Dark Ages simply because we do not know much about this time period - it was almost all wiped out along with its civilization



As they grew larger, these villages began to evolve to polis (large city-states).

They created/built:

-walls around the city

-math

-marketplaces

-government

-laws

-armies



# What was Ancient Greece?

City-states were said to be protected by a particular god or goddess, to whom the citizens of the polis owed a great deal of reverence, respect and sacrifice.

(Athens's deity was Athena,  
for example; so was Sparta's.)



# Greek cities design/ architecture

Acropolis- An elevated fortress  
built at the center of Greek city  
states



# Greek Politics & Government

Greece was divided into many small self-governing communities, a pattern largely dictated by Greek geography: every island, valley and plain is cut off from its neighbors by the sea or mountain ranges

# Greek Politics & Government

Athens introduced **democracy-**

**A government which receives its power from the people**



# What were some of the occupations for men at this time?

Craftsman      estate owners      soldier

Artisans      hunters      slaves

Farmers      scribes

Fisherman      clay worker

# Greek Beliefs

Women - had very little roles. Could not vote, own land, or drink alcohol. They were not considered citizens



# Greek Beliefs

Women - they were expected to be married off as “pure” & would be married off by 14 at the latest. Their father’s would choose a suitor. They could not leave their house w/o husband’s permission



# Greek Beliefs

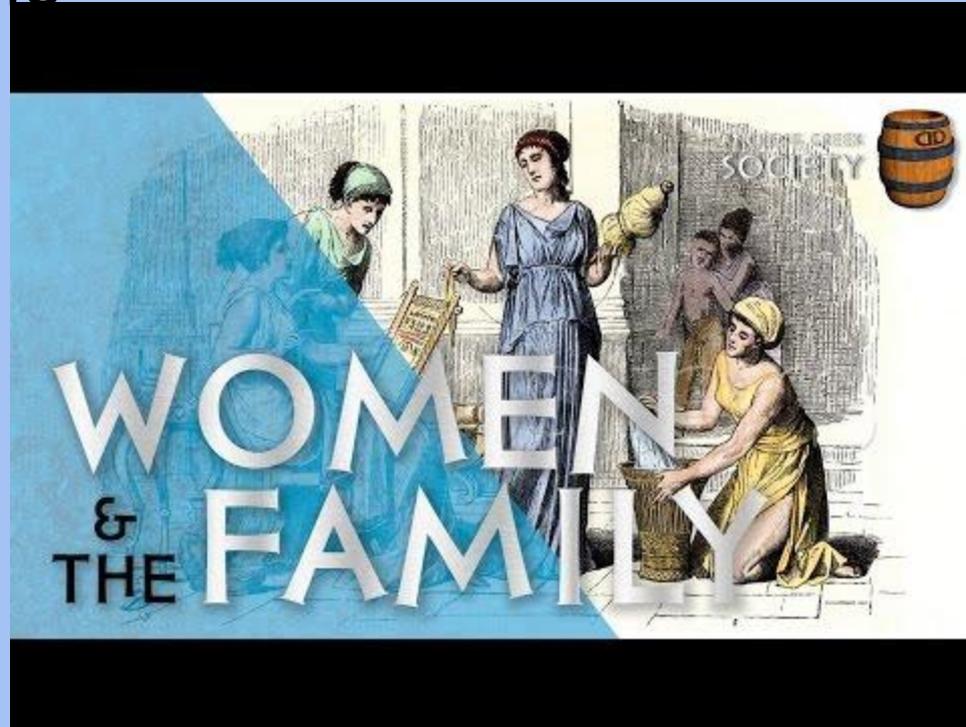
Men- Men were married around age 30, were responsible to lay their crops down & harvest, had many parties (where they drank & danced)

# Greek Beliefs

education - working civilians' children studied at school, including young girls. Men focused more on athletics & women were taught literature & music



# Greek Beliefs



# Greek language

Many of words in the English language come from Ancient Greek.

# Greek language



Try to guess what English word this would be:

βούτυρον

BUTTER

Try to guess what English word this would be:

ἀκνή

ACNE

# Greek Beliefs

**Polytheism** = the belief in more than one god



# Elements of Greek Mythology

-Each character has a unique story behind their existence or life

-God/esses and heroes appear in many of each other's stories. Many of them intertwine

-The setting for most Greek myths is in ancient Greece, although some myths are set in the underworld, Mount Olympus, and other purely mythical areas.

# Elements of Greek Mythology

-Gods and goddesses can interact with mortals & can have children with them. They played tricks on mortals

Many stories contain insect

there are many versions of each story



# Elements of Greek Mythology

-God/esses will typically have a major strength/power and weakness/ mistake

- In the end, a lesson is taught or a cultural or moral value is explained through the myth



# Greek language

These are called Vernacular borrowings - where parts or the whole of a word is borrowed from another language.

# Greek language

Many phrases that we know today were also taken from  
Ancient Greek mythology

-chaos

-Weight of the world

-Pandora's box

etc.

# Philosophy

Ancient Greek philosophy focused on the role of reason and inquiry. In many ways, it had an important influence on modern philosophy, as well as modern science

A **philosopher**- A person who studies and thinks about why the world is the way it is

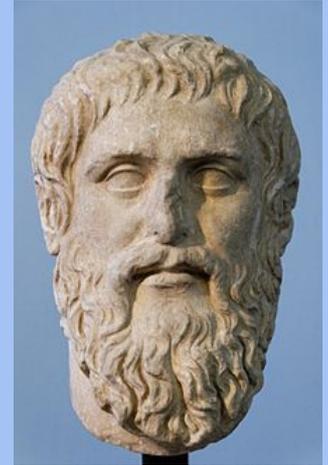
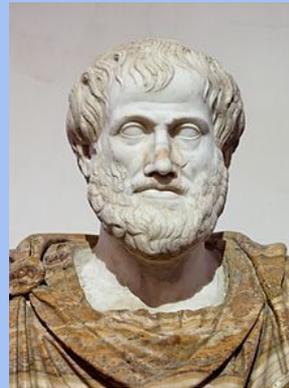
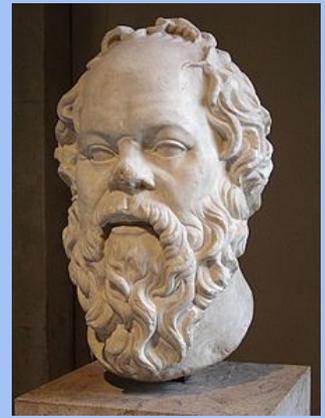
# Philosophy

Famous philosophers:

-Socrates - Discussed abstract ideas

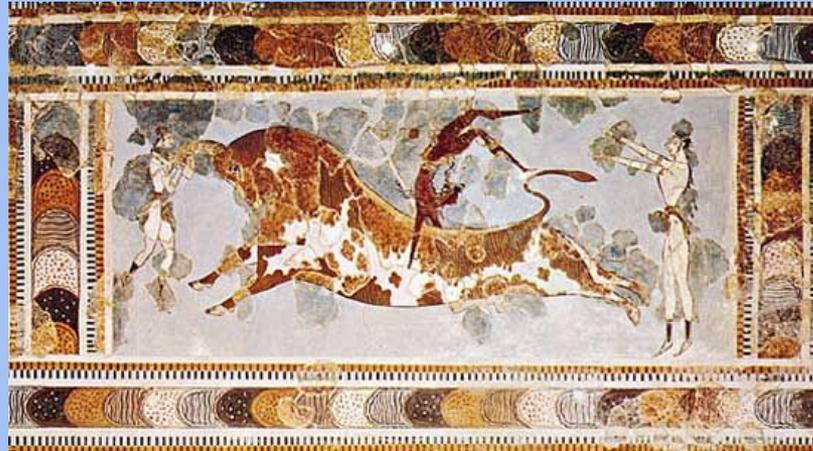
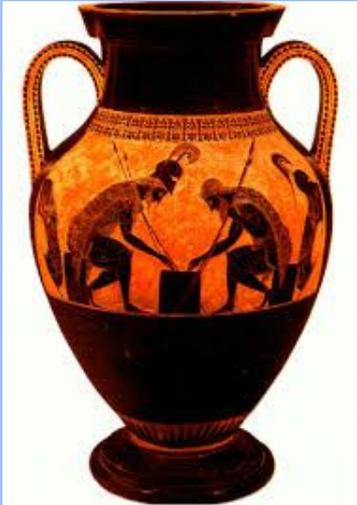
-Plato- Questioned politics

-Aristotle- Explored physical science



# Greek Art

**Fresco**- wall painting applied  
to plaster when wet



# Greek Art/ theater

Comedy- A light hearted or amusing play with a happy ending

Tragedy- A play about a serious topic, such as death or suffering

***(THOUGHT TO BE AROUND 400 BC)***

## Early Greece

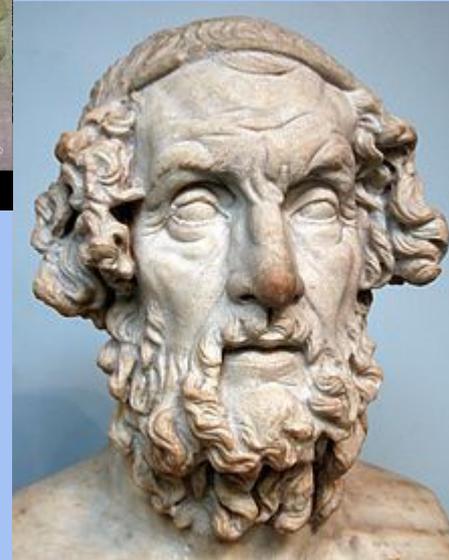
-Out of the Dark Ages came Homer- the principal figure in Greek literature

He:

-Wrote the Iliad and the Odyssey

-used his stories to teach dignity, importance of relationships/ love/ family

-and Greek heritage



# Greek Mythology

**Mythology**- A body of stories about gods, monsters, and heroes, that try to explain how the world works.

**Polytheism**-The belief of many gods

