Wise Citizen

Why are ancient myths famous?

KEY WORDS
divine
gifts
overcome



1 Discuss with a classmate the questions below.

1. What did Prometheus do?
2. What were the Olympic Games?
3. What was the *Iliad* about?
4. What is a myth?
5. How many gods did the Greeks have?

WORK IT OUT!
*Do the activity **A Story about Mythological Gods** using what you've learned.*

The ancient Greeks were very religious. They had 13 gods, including Zeus, Athena, Artemis, Apollo, and several others. They called them Olympian gods because they lived on the sacred mountain of Olympus. The Greek gods had supernatural powers.

The ancient Greeks wrote stories, called myths, about their gods, heroes, and important events and activities. Often in these stories, the characters have awesome powers and **overcome** challenges. A famous myth, called "The Myth of Prometheus" describes how Prometheus gave people **divine gifts** that allowed humans to act with love and respect. Another historic event, the Trojan War, inspired Homer to write the epic poem the *Iliad*. This mythical poem tells the story of Paris, the Prince of Troy, who kidnapped his true love, Helen. She was the wife of Menelaus, the king of Sparta. This story also tells about the Trojan War and how a group of Spartan soldiers sneaked into Troy inside a giant wooden horse.

Besides their myths, ancient Greeks enjoyed sports and going to theater. They invented the Olympic Games, which included many athletic events. This religious festival was held to honor Zeus, the king of their gods.

Personal Skills

MULTICULTURAL AWARENESS
Ancient Greeks created myths to talk about historical events like wars and natural events like earthquakes. Do you have similar mythology in your country or culture?



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