INTRODUCTION TO OLYMPIAN GODS & GODDESSES
MT. OLYMPUS OF THESSALY
MOUNT OLYMPUS

- Home of Most Important Greco-Roman Gods
- Thought of as a floating mountain in the sky
ZEUS (JUPITER)

- Supreme Ruler of the Gods, Heavens, & Earth
- Ruler of Weather
- Giver of Justice
- Weapons & Armor:
  - Thunderbolt, Scepter, & Aegis (breastplate)
- Symbols & Emblems:
  - Eagle & Oak tree
- Younger Brother of Poseidon, Hades, Hera, & Hestia
- Had numerous affairs
POSEIDON (NEPTUNE)

- God of the Seas, Storms, Earthquakes, Floods, & Droughts
- Married to Amphitrite, granddaughter of Ocean
- Weapon: Trident
- Rides: Dolphins, Horse, Bull
- Since Greece is an island nation, he was considered an extremely important god
- Gave the first horse to man
HADES (PLUTO)

- God of the Underworld (also known as Hades) & Wealth
- Ruler of the Dead (not Death himself)
- Oldest brother of Zeus
- Married to Persephone (Proserpine)
- Symbols & Emblems:
  - Cerberus, Drinking Horn,
  - Scepter, Cap of Invisibility, Cypress
HERA (JUNO)

- Queen of the gods: wife & sister of Zeus
- Goddess of Married Women, Marriage, Childbirth, Kings, & Empire
- Symbols & Emblems:
  - Pomegranate, Peacock, Cow, & Lotus Staff
- Extremely jealous of Zeus’ numerous lovers
hestia (vesta)

- Virgin Goddess of Home, Hearth & Fireside
- Oldest of Cronus & Rhea’s children
- Symbols & Emblems: the Hearth & its Fire
- Very few myths are told about her although everyone worshipped her
APHRODITE (VENUS)

- Goddess of Love & Beauty
- Wife of Hephaestus but had many affairs
- Symbols & Emblems:
  - Rose, Scallop Shell, Myrtle, Dove, Girdle, & Apple—sometimes swan & sparrow
- Emerged from Sea Foam
- Sometimes thought to be Mother of Eros (Cupid)
ARES (MARS)

- God of War & Violence
- Weapons & Armor: Bronze-tipped Spear & Golden Armor
- Son of Zeus & Hera
- Companions: sister Eris (Discord), Strife (her son), Enyo (Goddess of War) & with her Terror, Trembling, & Panic
- Symbols & Emblems: Vulture, Venomous Snake, Boar, & Dog
- Rarely worshiped, but often appeared in myths
HERMES (MERCURY)

- God of Trade, Travel, & Theft
- Messenger of the Gods
- Conductor of Souls to the Underworld
- Zeus & Maia (daughter of Atlas) were his parents
- Symbols & Emblems:
  Winged Sandals, Winged Cap, & Caduceus (staff with 2 snakes twined around)
- Inventor of the lyre
- Appears in more Greek myths than any other deity
**PALLAS ATHENA (MINERVA)**

- Battle Maiden & Virgin Goddess of Wisdom, Courage, Crafts, & Warfare
- Daughter of Zeus only, emerged fully grown & in full armor from Zeus’ head
- Invented bridle for taming horses
- Symbols & Emblems:
  - Owl, Olive tree, Spear, & Shield
**PHOEBUS APOLLO**

- God of Light & the Sun, Truth & Prophecy, Music, Poetry, Medicine, Archery, & Unmarried Men
- Son of Zeus & Leto (a lover)
- Twin Brother of Artemis
- Symbols & Emblems:
  - Golden Lyre, Laurel Wreath, Silver Bow & Arrows, & Golden Chariot, dolphin & crow
ARTEMIS (DIANA / CYNTHIA)

- Virgin Goddess of the Hunt, Moon, Wild Animals, & Unmarried Women
- Daughter of Zeus & Leto (a lover)
- Twin sister of Apollo
- Symbols & Emblems:
  - Crescent Moon Crown, Silver Chariot, Silver Bow & Arrows, She-bear, Deer, Cypress tree
HEPHAESTUS (VULCAN / MULCIBER)

- God of Fire & the Forge, Craftsmen & Metal-workers
- Only Disabled & Ugly God though married to Aphrodite
- Symbols & Emblems: Hammer, Anvil, Tongs, & Quail
- Created: Zeus's Thunderbolts, Achilles’ Armor, Prometheus’ Chains, Cupid’s Bow & Arrow, Poseidon’s Trident, Hermes’ Winged Sandals & Cap, Aphrodite’s Girdle, Helios’ Chariot, & robot named Talos
DEMETER / CERES

- Earth Goddess
- Goddess of Corn, Agriculture, & Fertility
- Daughter of Cronus & Rhea
- Mother of Persephone
- Her Moods affect the Seasons
- Symbols & Emblems:
  - Sheaf of Wheat, Cornucopia, Poppy Flower
PERSEPHONE/PROSERPINE

- Maiden of Spring
- Daughter of Demeter & Zeus
- Kidnapped by Hades & Made Queen of the Underworld
- Spends 3-4 months a year in Underworld & rest of the year “topside”
DIONYSUS / BACCHUS

- Earth God
- God of Wine, Celebration, & Drama
- Son of Zeus & Semele (mortal)
- Mankind’s benefactor &
- Mankind’s destroyer
- Thebes is his sacred city
- Symbols & Emblems:
  - Grape vine, Grape bunches, & Wine cup
EROS/CUPID

- God of Love, Lust, & Desire
- Primordial Birth--born out of CHAOS OR
- Son of Aphrodite and Ares
- Companion (minion) of Aphrodite
- Represented as a virile young man or a child
- Wears: Wings only
  - often blindfolded (as “love is blind”)
- Weapons: darts & arrows
- Married to Psyche “mind” or “soul” (human who became a deity)