



Legends of Ancient Greece Study Guide

Objectives

Legends of Ancient Greece blends stories from Greek Mythology into an educational epic production that facilitates learning across all age groups. This study guide is an aid for parents and teachers to help children gain important and relevant knowledge of Greek Mythology, theatre etiquette, performing arts and puppetry. Included are applicable South Carolina standards, a synopsis of the show, types of puppetry used and discussion topics for before and after the show.



South Carolina Educational Standards

Kindergarten - 8th Grade: Visual and Performing Arts

TK-T1-7.3 Describe emotions evoked by theatre experiences.

TK-T8-7.1 Identify audience etiquette to be used during theatre activities and performances.

TK-T3-6.1 Compare and contrast theatre activities and experiences with those encountered in other disciplines.

TK-T5-8.2 Experience live or recorded theatre performances.

T1-T5-6.4 Use theatrical conventions (for example, puppets, masks, props) in theatre activities.

T1&T2-7.2 Describe the characters, setting, events, and technical elements of a particular theatrical experience.

T3-T5-7.2 & T6-7.3 Give oral and written responses to live and recorded theatre performances.

T4-T8-5.3 Research information about various careers in theatre.

T4-T5-6.1 Demonstrate the understanding that theatre incorporates all arts areas.

T6-8.2 & T7-8.3 Recognize ways that live and recorded theatre relates to real life.

Kindergarten-8th grade: English Language Arts

RL Standard 6: Summarize key details and ideas to support analysis of thematic development.

RL Standard 7: Analyze the relationship among ideas, themes, or topics in multiple media, formats, and in visual, auditory, and kinesthetic modalities.

RL Standard 8: Analyze characters, settings, events, and ideas as they develop and interact within a particular context.

Show Synopsis

Join Pan, The Protector of the Forest, as he shares three of the most famous stories from Greek Mythology: Pandora's Box, Orpheus in the Underworld and Theseus vs. the Minotaur. This 45 minute long family friendly epic and educational production features elaborate shadow puppetry, dozens of mythological characters and some of the theatre's largest marionettes!

Pan: God of the wild, shepherds and flocks, nature of mountain wilds and rustic music and companion of the nymphs. He is part man but has the hindquarters, legs and horns of a goat. He is often seen playing his pan flute made from reeds of varying length.



Pandora's Box:

Pandora's name is Greek for "the one who bears all gifts." Pandora was given a box containing special gifts but she was not allowed to ever open it. She couldn't help herself and after opening it she released all of the illnesses and hardships hidden inside. Scared, she quickly closed the box trapping hope inside. Today the phrase "to open Pandora's box" means to perform an action that may seem small or innocent, but has detrimental or negative consequences.

Orpheus in the Underworld:



Orpheus and Eurydice were a young couple who fell in love and were happily married. After a viper stung Eurydice in the forest, she died and the union was severed. Because of his undying love for his wife, Orpheus journeyed to the Underworld to save her. He was a gifted musician and played a song that Hades could not resist, so he agreed to give Eurydice back under one condition. During the ascension back to the surface, Orpheus would have to trust that Eurydice was following behind him and he was forbidden to look back. Before the

couple made it to the surface, Orpheus looked back too soon and his love was swept back into the Underworld.

Theseus and the Minotaur:

Theseus, the King of Athens, volunteered to go on a dangerous mission to defeat a terrible minotaur that was sent deep into the depths of a treacherous labyrinth. Theseus bravely

navigated through the labyrinth, unwinding string to help him find his way home. The minotaur, which had the head of a bull and the body of a man, was ultimately defeated after an epic fight.

Characters that Appear (or are Referenced):

Pan: God of the wild, protector of the forest, a satyr

Hephaestus: God of fire and metalworking

Hermes: Messenger of the gods

Poseidon: God of the sea

Aphrodite: Goddess of love

Zeus: King of the gods, commander of the sky and thunder

Prometheus: a Titan, friend to the mortals

Pandora: the first human woman

Epimetheus: brother of Prometheus, husband to Pandora

Orpheus: A legendary musician

Eurydice: wife of Orpheus

Cerberus: Multi-headed guard dog at the gates of Hades

Charon: Ferryman for the River Styx

Hades: God of the underworld

Persephone: Queen of the underworld

Midas: King who could turn everything he touched to gold

Icarus and Daedalus: Father and son who escaped the Labyrinth with wax wings

Pegasus: Winged horse

Chiron: Centaur who trained many Greek heroes

Theseus: Hero who defeated the Minotaur

Minotaur: A creature with the head of a bull, body of a man, trapped in the Labyrinth

Syrinx: A nymph pursued by Pan



Types of Puppets used in the Show

Shadow Puppets: A form of storytelling in which flat articulated figures are held between a light source and a translucent screen. The audience does not see the puppet itself, only the shadow it casts.

Marionettes: Puppets controlled from above by strings. In our performances, the puppeteers are hidden, standing on bridges six feet above the stage.

Discussion Topics

Before the show:

- *What is a marionette?
- *What is appropriate theatre etiquette?
- *How is live performance different than watching a movie or tv?
- *Compare and contrast different types of live performance (puppet shows, magicians, music, circus, dance etc)
- *What types of live performance or puppetry are your students/child already familiar with? (Some suggestions: Sesame Street, the Muppet Movies, and various characters from Star Wars, such as Yoda, Jabba the Hutt, and BB-8)
- *Review the basic outline of the stories in this show with a description of characters

After the show:

- *Describe the different visual aspects of the show (lights, types of puppets, set design, etc)
- *What was the main idea? Describe the characters, how they interacted and why it was important to the story.
- *Discuss the plot elements and themes. How were the stories similar or different from versions they may have read or seen before?
- *Draw a picture of the puppet show with the characters and let them describe to other students who the characters were and what they did within the story.
- *Which parts of the performance did you like? Which did you not like? Why?
- *What do you think it would be like to be a puppeteer? What goes into making a show? (writing, building, planning, music, lights performance, etc)

Thank you for coming to the show!

We would love your feedback! If you or your students would like to send us a letter, please address to:

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