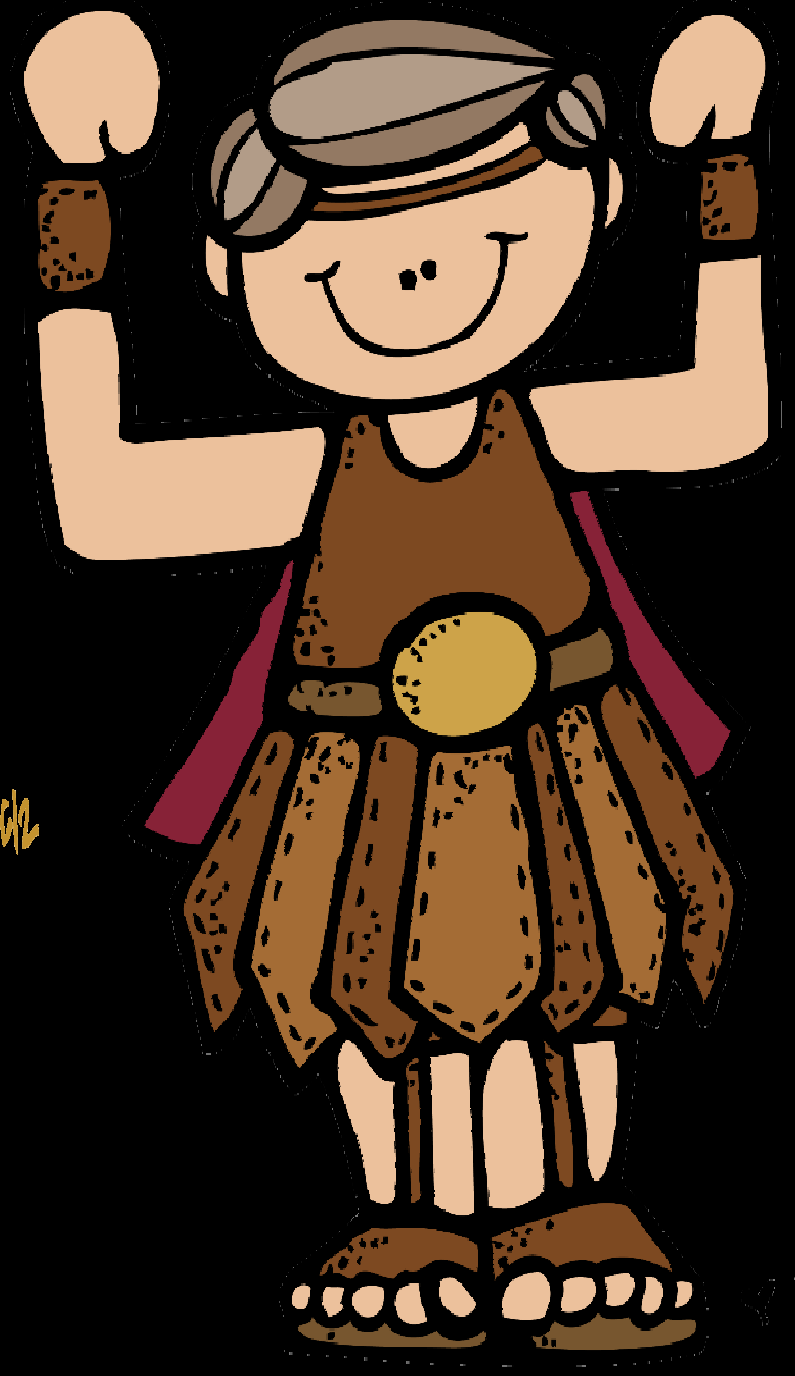


Greek Mythology

**LESSONS ON
MYTHICAL
ALLUSIONS**



GREEK MYTHOLOGY:

LESSONS ON MYTHICAL

ALLUSIONS

This 27 page package of resources contains everything you need to teach students about allusions from Greek Mythology. Very little teacher prep is required - simply print and teach!

This package contains informational handouts, reading passages, graphic organizers, answer keys, foldables, and class posters!

Detailed instructions and student examples included!

THIS PACKAGE OF RESOURCES CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING:

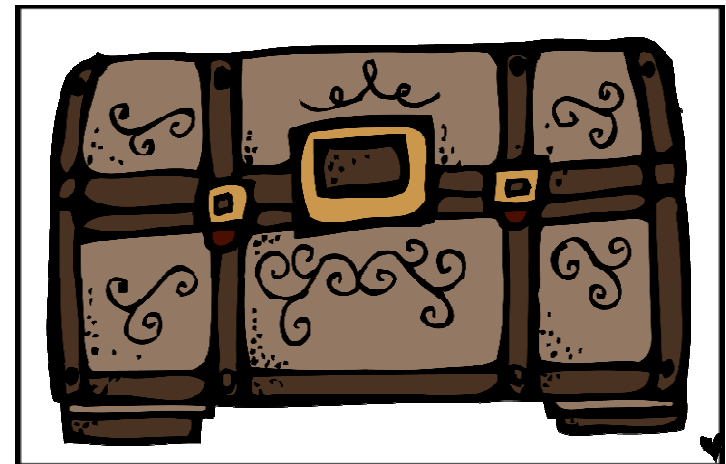
- **Mythical Allusion Information:** A page of information describing what mythical allusions are.
- **Mythical Allusions:** A separate page of information on a variety of allusions from Greek Mythology. These can be used as class posters or as student information sheets. A separate page on each of the following allusions is included: Achilles Heel, Pandora's Box, Weight of the World, Midas Touch, If Looks Could Kill, Cupid, Odyssey, Herculean, and Titanic.
- **Additional Mythical Allusions:** A page of information featuring a variety of additional allusions from Greek Mythology
- **Mythical Allusion Graphic Organizer:** A multi paged graphic organizer for students to record information on Mythical Allusions. Answer key provided!
- **Mythical Allusion Foldable:** All materials needed to create a fun foldable on allusions from Greek Mythology.

MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS: WHAT ARE THEY?

Allusions are references to things commonly talked about in our society. They are a reference to something famous, such as a well known person, event, story, work of art, song, movie, or character. They help us avoid long, roundabout explanations.

Allusions help us to create a visual image in our heads, because we are able to relate and understand by connecting it to something we already know.

Many references we make today come from Greek Mythology. These references are called Mythical Allusions. Understanding these Greek Myths opens the door to understanding the many allusions to these Ancient Greek stories in modern language, poetry, literature, and pop culture.



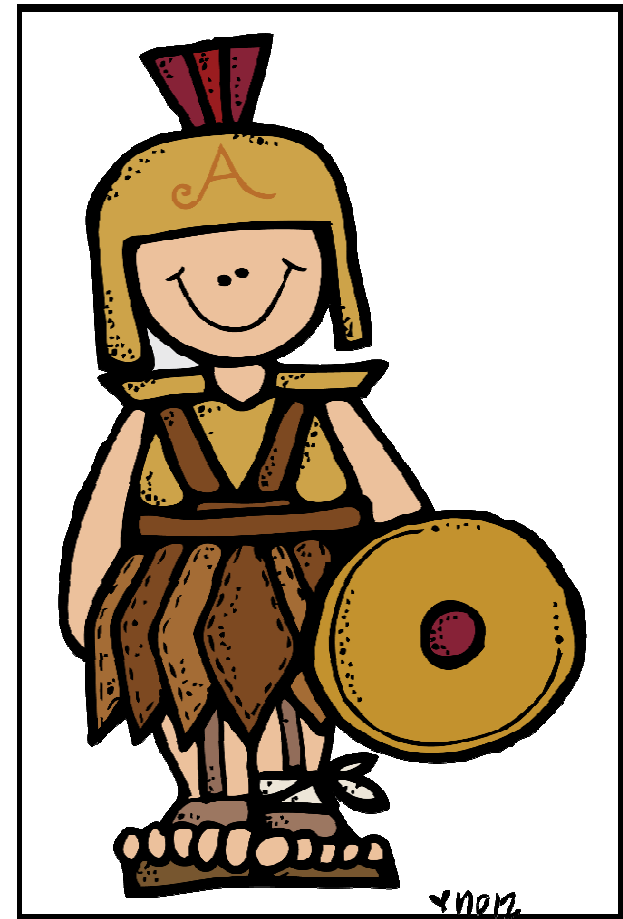
MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS:

ACHILLES HEEL

In Greek Mythology, Achilles was a great warrior. When he was a baby, his mom dipped him into the River Styx to make him invulnerable. However, when she dipped him, she held him by the heel. As this area did not get dipped into the river, it was left unprotected. This led to his downfall, as he eventually was killed by being shot in the heel by an arrow.

Today, an “Achilles Heel” refers to someone’s weakness or fatal flaw.

Example: “I know I should eat healthy, but chocolate is my Achilles Heel”.



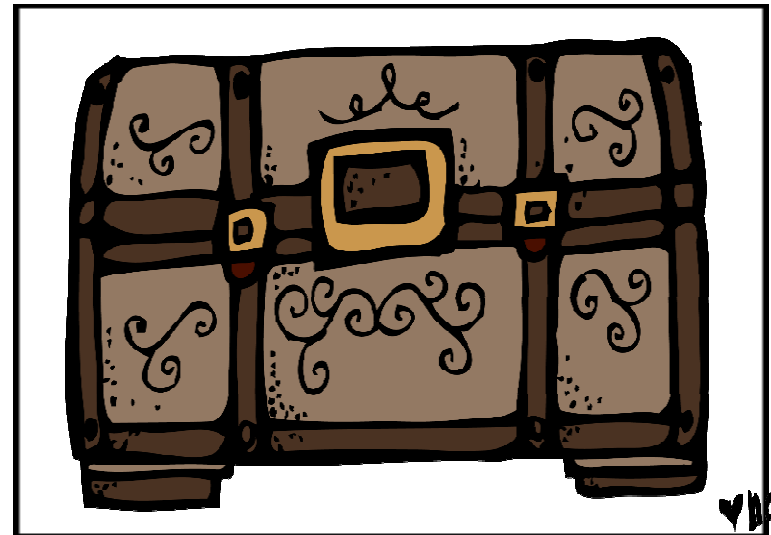
MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS:

PANDORA'S BOX

Pandora was created by the gods, and was the first woman on Earth. Zeus created Pandora as revenge against Prometheus, who had stolen fire from the gods to give to the humans. When Zeus placed her on Earth, he gave her a box. He told her not to open the box, no matter what. Unable to contain her curiosity, Pandora peeked inside, causing all of the evils of the world to come spilling out. She tried to close it quickly, but it was too late; only Hope remained.

Today, a Pandora's box is referred to as anything that, upon investigation, leads to unexpected and extensive troubles.

Example: "Walking in on my sister's sleepover party unleashed a Pandora's Box of girl related trouble"

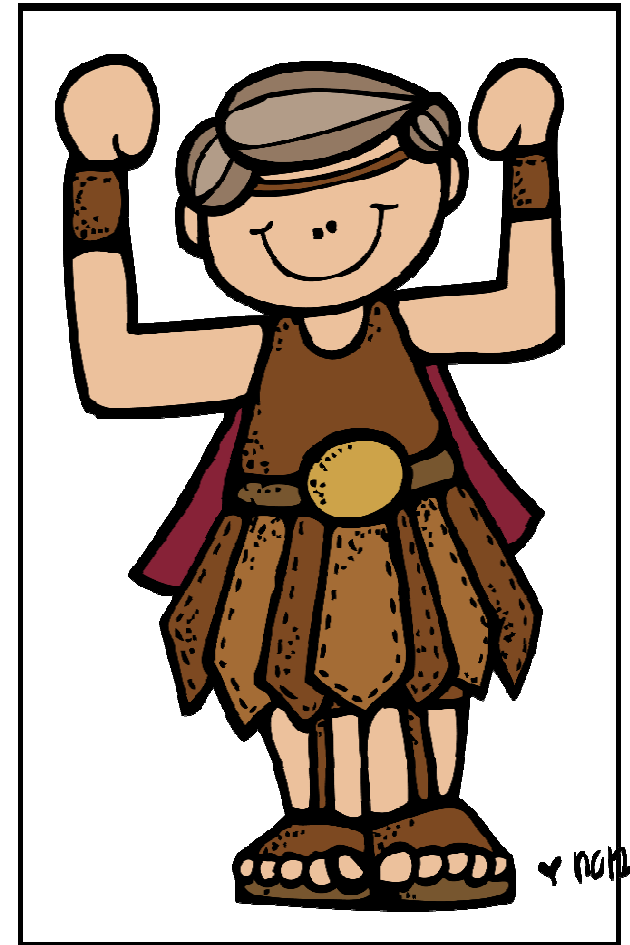


MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS: HERCULEAN

Heracles (or Hercules) was a brave hero from Greek Mythology. He was known for his courage and strength. There are many stories in Greek Mythology that discuss his brave deeds and amazing strength; for example, one story had him defeating the supernatural Nemean Lion, and another had him burying the many headed Hydra under piles of boulders.

Today, A Herculean feat is something that is very hard to perform, and requires great strength.

Example: “With Herculean effort, the man lifted the sofa onto the moving van.”

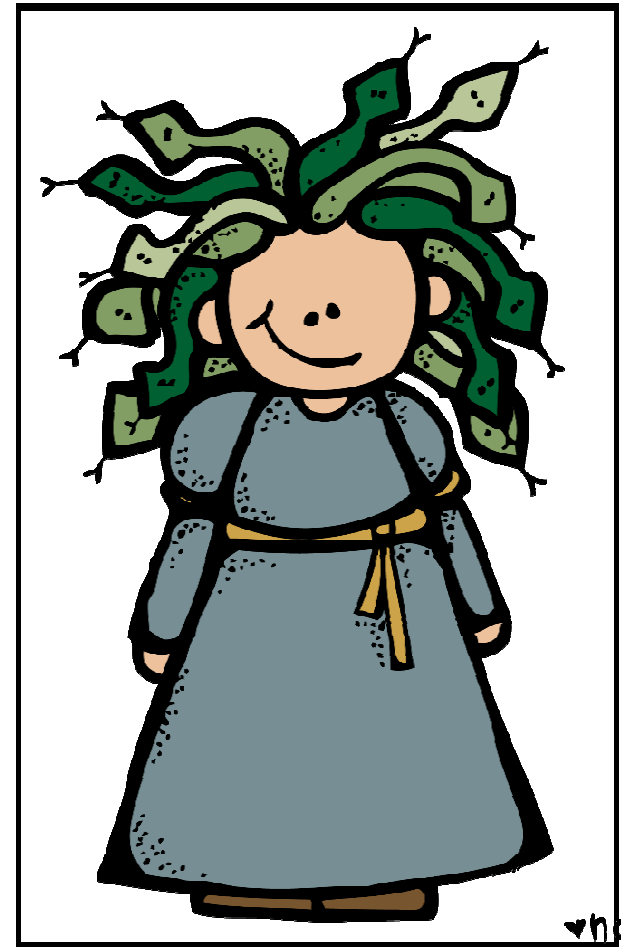


MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS: IF LOOKS COULD KILL

Medusa was an evil Gorgon. She had snakes for hair, and could turn a man to stone by looking at him. She really did have a look that could kill. She was eventually defeated by Perseus, who avoiding looking directly at her by using his shield as a mirror.

Today, “If looks could kill” means giving someone a dirty look.

Example: “If looks could kill, then, by the way my girlfriend looked at me when I talked to the new girl at school, I would be a dead man.”



♥haz

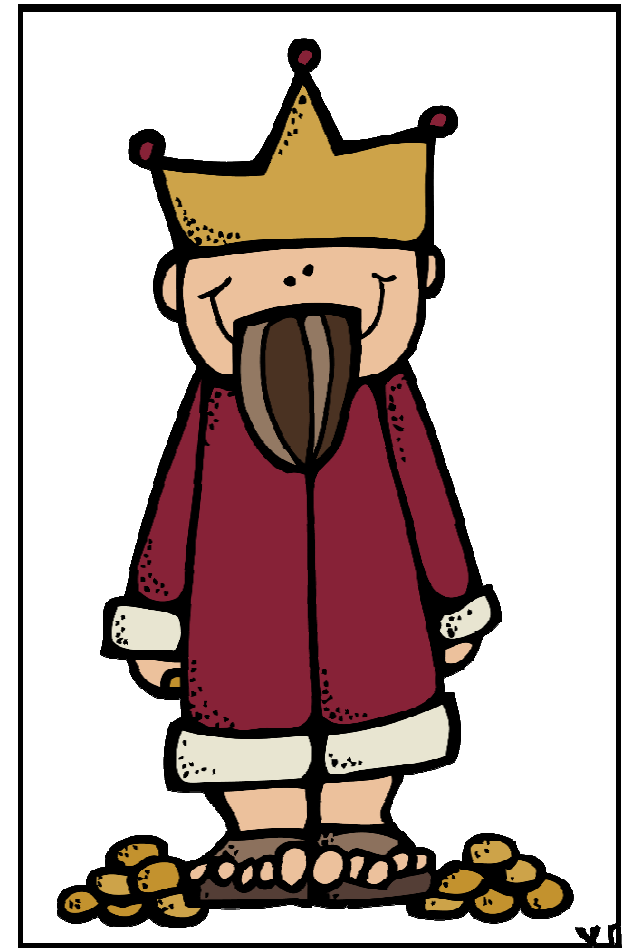
MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS:

MIDAS TOUCH

King Midas was known for both his wisdom and his greed. One day, after being kind to the god Dionysus, he was granted one wish. King Midas wished for everything he touched to turn to gold.

Today, if someone has the “Midas Touch”, they have the ability to generate wealth. It usually refers to someone who can earn a lot of money, no matter what they put their mind to. It can also be used to refer to someone with good fortune.

Example: “The wealthy businessman seemed to have the Midas Touch”.

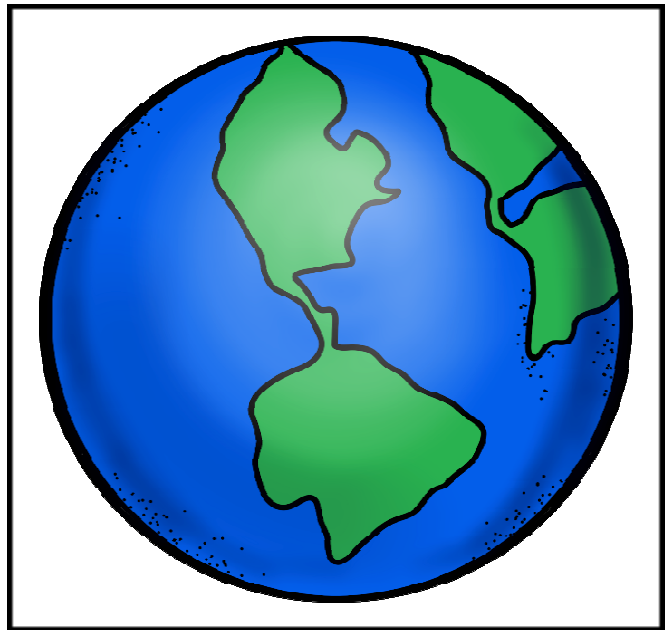


MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS: THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD

In Greek Mythology, Atlas was a Titan. He fought alongside the other Titans in a war against Zeus. The Titans wanted control over the mortal world, and Atlas led the other Titans in a fight to take away Zeus's power over the Earth. When the Titans were defeated by Zeus, Zeus punished Atlas by making him hold the world on his back for all eternity.

Today, someone who is said to be carrying "the weight of the world" is someone with a great burden or problem to bear.

Example: "The mother of the sick child felt like she was carrying the weight of the world on her shoulders".



MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS:

ODYSSEY

In Greek Mythology, Odysseus was a great hero. On his way home from the Trojan war, Odysseus angered the god Poseidon, who cursed his journey. Odysseus was forced to travel the seas for many years, going through several adventures and hardships, before finally being able to return home.

Today, an “Odyssey” refers to a great adventure or journey.

Example: “Our trip to Mexico was quite the Odyssey”.

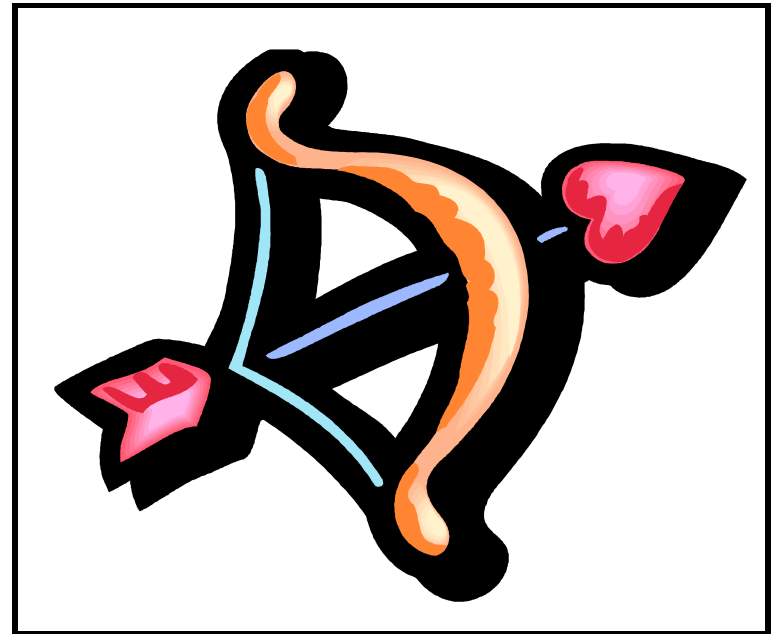
MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS:

CUPID

Eros was the Greek god of love, and called Cupid by the Romans. He was usually depicted as a young boy with wings, holding a bow and arrow. Cupid was famous for shooting his arrows at people, which would make those hit fall in love.

Today, to play Cupid is to play matchmaker. Also, when someone suddenly falls in love, they are often referred to as being hit by Cupid's arrow.

Example: "I played Cupid when I set my cousin up on a blind date".



MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS:

TITANIC

In Greek Mythology, the Titans were large giants. They fought in an epic battle against Zeus, when they tried to take Zeus's power over Earth. Zeus and the Olympians defeated them, and the Titan's were punished.

Today, "Titan" refers to someone who is of great size, strength, or achievement.

Example: "The tall boy on the basketball court was titanic".

MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS:

SIREN'S SONG

In Greek Mythology, the Sirens lived on an island. When boats approached them, they would present themselves as beautiful women. They would sing glorious songs from the island, luring sailors to their shores. When the sailors arrived, the Sirens would present their true selves - they were actually horrible man eating monsters, that were half bird, half woman.

Today, a “Siren’s Song” refers to something beautiful but potentially dangerous.

Example: “The Siren’s Song of the gold rush called many men to dedicate their lives to mining for gold”.

MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS: QUESTIONS

ALLUSION	WHAT IT MEANS TODAY
Achilles Heel	
Pandora's Box	
Odyssey	

MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS: QUESTIONS

ALLUSION	WHAT IT MEANS TODAY
The Weight of the World	
Herculean	
The Midas Touch	

MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS: QUESTIONS

ALLUSION	WHAT IT MEANS TODAY
If Looks Could Kill	
Cupid	
Titanic	

MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS: QUESTIONS

ALLUSION	WHAT IT MEANS TODAY
Siren's Song	

MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS: QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY

ALLUSION	WHAT IT MEANS TODAY
Achilles Heel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A tragic flaw or weakness
Pandora's Box	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Something that, upon investigation, leads to unexpected trouble
Odyssey	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A great journey or adventure

MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS: QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY

ALLUSION	WHAT IT MEANS TODAY
The Weight of the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Having great troubles or problems to bear
Herculean	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Something that requires great strength
The Midas Touch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To have good fortune

MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS: QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY

ALLUSION	WHAT IT MEANS TODAY
If Looks Could Kill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Giving someone a dirty look
Cupid	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To play matchmaker
Titanic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be of large size

MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS: QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY

ALLUSION	WHAT IT MEANS TODAY
Siren's Song	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Something beautiful but potentially dangerous.

MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS:

ADDITIONAL ALLUSIONS

Adonis: Adonis was a beautiful man who was loved by Aphrodite. Today we use the word “Adonis” to describe a handsome man.

Mentor: In Greek Mythology, Mentor was a friend of Telemachus, who was the son of Odysseus. Mentor was the teacher of Telemachus. Today, a mentor is a trusted teacher or guide.

Calliope: Calliope was the oldest of the Greek muses. Greek muses were the goddesses of music and dance. Today a calliope is a type of loud organ.

Lethargy: The river Lethe was located in the Greek Underworld. The river caused those who drank from it to forget their past. Today, lethargy means to be very tired.

Harpy: In Greek Mythology, a Harpy was an evil woman who was half bird and half woman. Today, we use the word “Harpy” to describe a nagging woman.

MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS:

FOLDABLE FLIPBOOK

Students use the included templates and instructions to create a flipbook showing eight mythical allusions. Everything students need to create this foldable have been included.

This is an excellent extension activity for students to complete after reading the included Mythical Allusion handouts and completing the question sheet.

When students have completed the flipbooks, they can be glue inside their Interactive Notebooks. These make great review tools!



MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS

FOLDABLE TEMPLATE

PRINT
TWO
FOR
EACH
STUDENT

MYTHICAL ALLUSIONS: FOLDABLE TEMPLATE

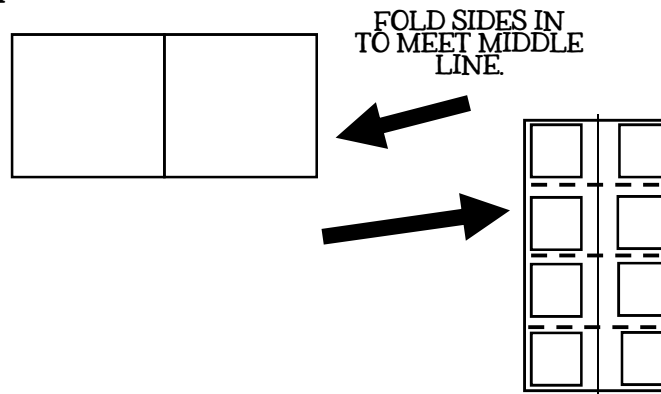
Materials:

- Box strips cut out from foldable template (4 blank strips)
- Construction Paper
- Black Sharpie
- Pencil Crayons or Markers
- Mythical Allusion information sheets
- Scissors
- Glue

Step One: turn construction paper on its side, so it is long and skinny, like a hotdog.

Step Two: Fold paper in half down the middle.

Step Three: Open up the paper. Fold sides in to meet the middle, shutter fold style. You will end up with a tall tower shaped page, with two opening flaps.



Step Four: Cut a line in between each square. You will end up with eight opening flaps.

Step Five: Open flaps. Glue blank strips inside.

Step Six: Using your handouts on mythical allusions, write what each allusion means today on the inside of each flap. Outline your words in sharpie.

Step Seven: On the front of your flaps, write and illustrate the allusion that corresponds with each flap. Color with pencil crayon or marker when complete.

Still confused? See student example for help!

Thank you so much for downloading this package of activities. I hope you are able to make good use of it in your classroom! If you get a chance, please provide some feedback on it at Teachers Pay Teachers.

Visit my Teachers Pay Teachers store for numerous ready to use units and lessons for English, Social Studies, and Art! I also frequently post free items!

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The fonts can found here:

<http://www.kevinandamanda.com/fonts/>

and

<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/KG-Second-Chances-Font-Personal-Use-716428>

Clipart can be found here:

<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Funny-Friends-10-Clipart-Collection-Greek-Gods-Goddesses-Monsters-752217>

and

<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Mythology-bundle-by-melonheadz-854387>

and

<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Planets-Clip-Art-Bundle-1159551>