

## Teaching activity – aesthetics

### Topic: The ancient Greek culture

This material was made for two 90-minute lessons of the subject **aesthetic education**.

#### Step 1:

1. The teacher asks the students if they know any gods from the Greek mythology and writes the names they have mentioned on the board.
2. The teacher offers more names of gods with mingled letters and asks them to reorder the letters to recreate the correct names

reiAhptod                  nsiyusDo                  emsreH                  eaHr    eHapehusst                  etc.

The teacher also asks students to define what range of power the god has and what responsibility, e.g. Aphrodite = the goddess of love

#### Step 2:

The teacher asks students to use this web page: <http://www.greek-gods.info/greek-gods/>

The students will complete the definitions and symbols of each god studying the basic information.

#### Step 3:

**The students can do the quiz of symbols here:** (if you register, the points can be counted to you)

<http://www.greek-gods.info/games/quizzes/symbols-quiz/>

#### Step 4

From the gallery of [http://www.ancientgreece.com/s/Main\\_Page/](http://www.ancientgreece.com/s/Main_Page/) the teacher chooses the most important paintings and sculptures of Greek gods and the students guess who it is. Then they search the web for more information about the pieces of art and their creators.

#### Step 5

The teacher asks students to put the story in the correct order:

- a) However, Thetis did not quite achieve what she had hoped for... while she was keeping him inside the waters, she had to hold her child by one heel, leaving one vulnerable spot in the body of Achilles.
- b) Thetis, the mother of Achilles, was strongly attached to her son and when he was born, she attempted to make him immortal by dipping him in the sacred waters of the river Styx.
- c) Achilles was the most handsome, capable and worthy of all the heroes that participated in the Trojan War.
- d) The expression "Achilles heel" remains until today, describing a small, but important weakness of a human being.
- e) This weakness turned out to be crucial for Achilles, since he got killed during the Trojan War by an arrow that hit exactly that spot.
- f) He was born as the son of Peleus, the King of Phythia, and the silver footed sea goddess Thetis.

Students use the stories and try to explain sayings like e.g. “torture of Tanthalos”, “thread of Ariadne” etc.

#### Step 6

The teacher asks students to read about Greek heroes on the web pages, choose their favourite one and state the reasons for their preferences. The students also have to decide if their favourite hero has any of the four main virtues Greeks admired:

**temperance   prudence   courage   justice**

The class can even make a competition: the best hero is that one who is best defended

*(possible homework: write down the defence speech)*

*(possible homework: write your own hero's story)*

To finish the topic of the lesson the students can make more games and quizzes to revise what they learnt.

### **Step 7**

**Music listening:** there are some classical composers who used the Greek mythology for their operas, e.g. Claudio [\*Monteverdi's Orfeo\*](#). It depends on the teacher which part they choose with which proposal.

It can be compared with [\*Jacques Offenbach's Orphée aux enfers\*](#). The overture or especially [\*The galop\*](#) is very famous and can be used as a demonstration of different periods, styles and forms (opera x operetta) of music and interpretations of the Orpheus myth.

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