

GREEK MYTH CHARACTERISTICS

1. The universe as the Greeks thought of it was made up of three parts: earth; sky, or heavens; and water - each was ruled by a god.
2. All things have come from Mother Earth and from the Sky (Heaven) that has watered the earth.
3. The basic elements of nature as they were evident to the greek world are accounted for, and are in keeping with the idea that myths are the result of a people's imagination working upon their own place and experience.
4. There were many gods and goddesses, each with a primary concern and a specific symbol of powers.

(example: Eros - god of Love)
5. These gods were immortal and had power greater than that of men, but they were not faultless.
6. In the story of creation there is a progression from the abstract to the specific at the same time as there is a decreasing scale in size of beings in an inverted pyramid order.
7. The gods were jealous of their power, and if they became angry, they could and would punish men.
8. Man was created lesser than the gods but higher than the animals, because he was given the power to think and to feel; he had spirit as well as sense.
9. One of the greatest gifts to man was fire, which he could use in making a good life for himself.
10. Because the gods were displeased with men, they made them work and sent troubles into the world, but they also gave them hope, so that they could survive in spirit of woes.
11. Even though the gods did become angry, they did not wish to destroy mankind. Instead they created a new race.