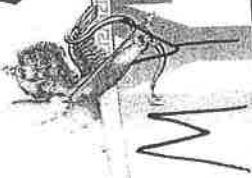


# APOLLO



Where's the party?

# MYTHOLOGY OF THE GODS!

## A Look-It-Up Guide to the Gods of Mythology

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 SCHOLASTIC

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## Profile of Apollo

Sounds Like: uh-poh'-oh

Roman Name: Apollo

Aliases: Phoebus Apollo, "Shining One,"  
Delphinios

Generation:  Titan  
 Olympian  
 Other

Divine Powers: Archery  
Healing  
Music  
Poetry  
Prophecy  
Truth

Attributes: Bow and arrow Oracle  
Raven  
Dolphin Snake  
Hawk Tripod  
Laurel tree Swam  
Laurel wreath Wolf  
Lyre  
Omphalos

### Top 10 Things to Know About Me:

- With my bow and arrow, I shot the hero Achilles right in his weak spot—his heel!
- My twin sister and I got even with Niobe by using her kids for target practice.
- I built a temple at Delphi where my oracles call it like I see it—shout-out to the Pythia!
- I schooled a satyr in a music throwdown.
- Thanks to a diet of nectar and ambrosia, the food of Olympians, I went from a baby to a full-grown god in one day.
- My love affairs end badly—for my sweethearts, that is.
- With my mad musical skills and poetry props, I lead the Muses.
- I shot poisoned arrows into Agamemnon's camp to infect his soldiers with the plague.
- I killed the Cyclopes, who'd given Zeus his thunderbolts, then spent a year on Earth, exiled from Olympus.
- My dad, Zeus, rules heaven and earth.

I should have seen that coming!

# APOLLO

## HELLY ON MOUNT OLYMPUS

Handsome god of prophecy, archery, music, and more seeks a special someone who won't "make like a tree and leave" when she sees me. I have many talents and can see into the future. Well, except when it comes to love. If you like hawks, music, and poetry, and are ready to be treated like a goddess, shoot me an arrow with your number attached. Laurel trees, no need to apply!

Heads up, handsome!

### REALITY CHECK

In the 1960s, NASA named its crewed space program Apollo, after the god of archery and prophecy.

Want to know more? Go to: [www.nasa.gov/collections/imagery/apollo/apollo.htm](http://www.nasa.gov/collections/imagery/apollo/apollo.htm)



### Family, Flings, Friends, and Foes

#### Parents



Zeus and Leto

#### Siblings



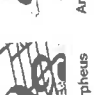
Artemis

#### Offspring



Asclepius

#### Flings



Orpheus

#### Friends



Troilus

#### Foes



Cassandra

#### Friends



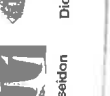
Coronis

#### Foes



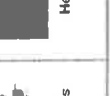
Hera

#### Friends



The Pythia

#### Foes



Poseidon

#### Friends



Dionysus

#### Foes



Python

#### Foes



Eros

#### Foes



Agamemnon

#### Foes

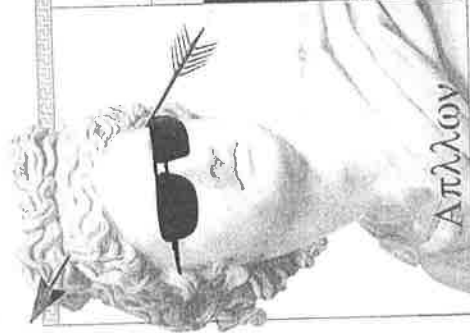


Niobe

#### Foes



Marsyas



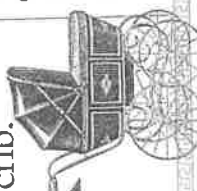
# APOLLO MYTHOLOGY LOPEEDIA

"The future's so bright, I gotta wear shades."

## IT'S GREEK TO ME

Personification, or giving human characteristics to a nonhuman thing, is BIG in Greek mythology. For example, the little island of Delos, he would be ashamed of the modest island. Leto, Apollo's mom, vowed to build a temple there and Delos happily agreed to be the god's birthplace.

"From the moment I was born, I always had nectar and ambrosia in my crib."



Choir of the baby gods

## A GOD IS BORN

Jealous Hera throws a fit, but a little island saves the day.

Apollo and his twin sister, Artemis, were born on the island of Delos, the only place that would allow their mother, Leto, to give birth. That's because Zeus was their daddy, which didn't please his wife, the goddess Hera, at all! In fact she forbade the birth to take place on land or anywhere the sun shone. Fortunately Poseidon, the god of the sea and Apollo's uncle, revealed a small bit of the island that had been covered with water (the Greek word *delos* means "visible"). As soon as Apollo was born, he was fed nectar and ambrosia, and within a day he had become a full-grown god!



Apollo was hung

## REALITY CHECK

Is there really an island of Delos? Yes! Delos is in the Aegean Sea, near the island of Mykonos. The Greeks considered it sacred and built temples and statues there honoring the gods.

Want to know more? Go to: [www.unesco.org/](http://www.unesco.org/)



Apollo

Python

## THE ORACLE AT DELPHI

Apollo finds a spot for his temple, slays a dragon, and sets up shop at Delphi.

As the god of prophecy, or predicting the future, Apollo needed a temple where mortals could ask him questions. Apollo's answers would be spoken through an oracle, or prophet. He found the perfect spot at Pytho—well, perfect after he killed a horrible dragon that lived there. Apollo's answers were spoken through the Pythia, or priestess of the temple. Pytho later came to be known as Delphi.

The sacred area of Apollo's temple was home to:

- a golden statue of Apollo
  - the omphalos
  - the supposed tomb of the god Dionysus
  - a deep chasm, on top of which sat a tripod
- The Pythia sat on the tripod, drinking water from a nearby sacred spring, chewing laurel leaves, and shaking a laurel branch.

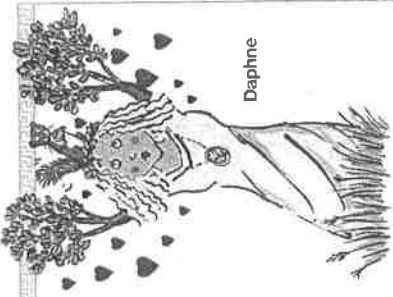
## REALITY CHECK

The ruins of Apollo's temple at Delphi can still be seen today on the slopes of Mount Parnassus in Greece.

Want to know more? Go to: [www.ancient-greece.org/architecture/delphi-temple-of-apollo.html](http://www.ancient-greece.org/architecture/delphi-temple-of-apollo.html)



Temple of Apollo at Delphi

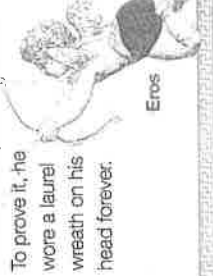


Daphne

## HIDE AND SEEK

Daphne makes like a tree and leaves—for good!

Apollo was madly in love with the nymph Daphne, but she didn't feel the same way. Eros, the naughty god of love, had shot Apollo with a golden arrow to make him feel love-dovey, and shot Daphne with a lead arrow so she'd say "NO WAY." One day Apollo followed Daphne to the banks of the River Peneus. As Apollo reached toward her, Daphne cried to her father, a river god, for help. Suddenly she turned into a laurel tree! Apollo swore on the spot that he'd always love Daphne.



Eros

To prove it, he wore a laurel wreath on his head forever.

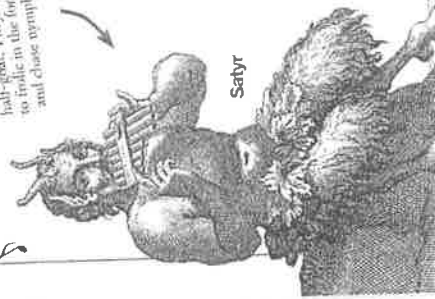
**"I like to pluck a tune on the lyre while the Muses sing and dance!"**

### BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Marsyas challenges Apollo to a contest and is hung out to dry.

The satyr Marsyas challenged Apollo to a musical contest. The winner could do what he wished with the loser. Apollo played his lyre like a god and won—and poor Marsyas, who played the pipes, was hung from a tree and skinned alive.

Satyrs are half-man, half-goat. They love to frolic in the forest and chase nymphs.



Satyr



Apollo

Artemis

Niobe

### APOLLO AND NIOBE

Niobe makes an unwise boast, and Apollo and Artemis stick up for their mom.

The mortal Niobe boasted that she was equal to Leto, the mother of Apollo and Artemis, because she had given birth to many children while Leto had borne only two. Big mistake! Her boast enraged Apollo and Artemis, who retaliated by using their bows and arrows to kill all 14 of Niobe's children: Apollo shot the boys and Artemis shot the girls.

**"My twin sister, Artemis, and I invented hunting—just ask Niobe!"**

She weeps all day!

Niobe



Want to know more? Go to: [www.BF1encyclopedia.org/Niobe](http://www.BF1encyclopedia.org/Niobe)

### AGAMEMNON'S CURSE

Agamemnon makes a costly mistake.

In another story, Apollo used his skill as an archer to show his power over sickness and healing. This time the hero Agamemnon, commander in chief of the Greeks during the Trojan War, insulted an elderly priest of Apollo. The old priest prayed to Apollo, asking him to make the Greeks pay for this insult. Apollo obliged by coming down from Olympus for nine days and shooting poison arrows at the mules, hounds, and men in the Greek camp, infecting them with a plague.

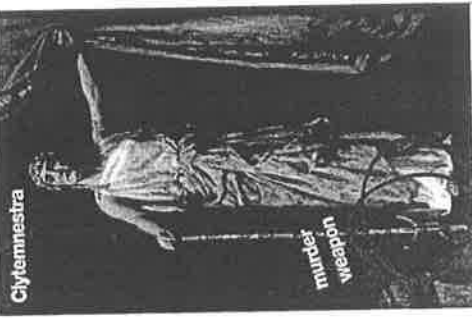
**"As the god of sickness and healing, sometimes I heal people—and sometimes I make them sick."**



### UNLUCKY IN LOVE

Apollo gives Cassandra the gift that keeps on giving.

A glutton for punishment, Apollo fell in love with the princess Cassandra, the beautiful daughter of Priam, king of Troy, and Hecuba. To prove his love, Apollo gave Cassandra the gift of **prophecy**. But when she rejected him, Apollo cursed her so that no one would believe a word she said. Cassandra foretold the downfall of Troy and warned about the dangers of the Trojan Horse, but no one believed her. Later she warned Agamemnon upon his return from the war that his unfaithful wife Clytemnestra was going to kill him. Agamemnon didn't believe her, but Cassandra was right again. Clytemnestra and her boyfriend Aegisthus killed Agamemnon and Cassandra.

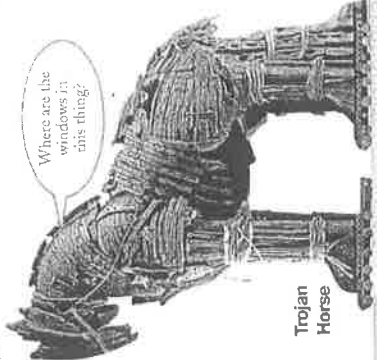


Clytemnestra

murder weapon

### REALITY CHECK

The legendary struggle known as the Trojan War took place between the people of Greece and the people of Troy. It was the setting for Homer's epic *The Iliad*. But was it real? Archaeologists uncovered evidence that the real Troy had been sacked around 1250 BCE.



Trojan Horse

Where are the windows in this thing?

Don't mess with a princess!

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Apollo

**Apollo**, «uh POL oh», was a major god in Greek mythology. He was the son of Zeus, the king of the gods, and the goddess Leto. The goddess Artemis was Apollo's twin.

Apollo probably originated in Asia Minor (now part of Turkey). At one time, he was known as a god of shepherds. Apollo also became associated with archery, healing, music, poetry, prophecy, purification, and seafaring. Under the name *Phoebus Apollo*, he became the god of light. He was also considered the god of the sun. Only Zeus was more widely worshiped than Apollo.

Apollo killed a dragon named Python at Delphi and established his temple there. The Greeks believed Apollo foretold the future through an *oracle* (prophet) at Delphi. Temple priests asked questions of this oracle, an elderly woman named the Pythia, who responded in the words of Apollo. The priests interpreted her responses. Delphi became the greatest of Apollo's many oracles throughout the ancient world. See [Delphi](#); [Oracle](#).

The Greeks sometimes blamed Apollo and Artemis for sudden deaths. They killed the children of Niobe, queen of Thebes, who had boasted that she had more children and was superior to Leto (see [Niobe](#)).

Apollo was unsuccessful in many of his love affairs. For example, he loved the nymph Daphne, but she fled from him. When Apollo was finally about to catch her, Daphne called out for help and was changed into a laurel tree (see [Daphne](#)). Apollo also loved Coronis, a mortal woman. But Coronis was unfaithful, and either Apollo or Artemis killed her and her lover.



Picture  
Ancient Greek  
dish

The Romans worshiped Apollo primarily as a god of healing and prophecy. His influence increased when the Roman emperor Augustus made him his *patron* (protector). In art, Apollo is depicted as a beardless young man, the Greek ideal of male beauty. He is often shown with a bow or lyre.

See also [Artemis](#); [Asclepius](#); [Cassandra](#); [Midas](#).

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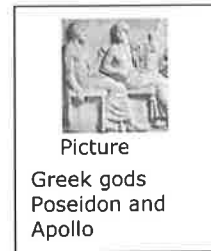
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Picture  
Greek gods  
Poseidon and  
Apollo

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## Apollo

Apollo was the legendary Olympian god associated with archery, healing, music, prophecy, poetry, and the sun. He was the son of Zeus and Leto and the twin brother of Artemis.

The ancient Greeks believed the island of Delos to be the birthplace of Apollo. Although scholars are unsure of his origin as a deity, early evidence supports that Apollo was worshipped as a god who communicated through prophets, who could cleanse people of their guilt, and who could either send evil or save people from it. Apollo was also worshipped as a god of crops and herds, and in such an aspect he was referred to as Nomios, meaning pastoral. He was also worshipped as Alexikakos ("Averter of Evil").

Another epithet connected with Apollo was Phoebus, a name that linked him to the sun and meant "pure" or "bright."



According to legend, through the slaying of the dragon known as Python, Apollo gained control of Delphi, an area that had previously worshiped Gaia. Thereafter, a festival called the Pythian Games occurred in Delphi every eight years. Delphi was also the site of the famous Oracle of Apollo. The head priestess of this oracle, known as the Pythia, was famous for uttering prophecies believed to have been inspired by Apollo.

In Greek art, Apollo is usually depicted as a beardless, athletic young man, who was the epitome of male beauty. Apollo used a bow as a weapon, the lyre as his instrument, and the laurel was his sacred tree. Apollo received the lyre, the instrument he was most famous for, from Hermes. The well-known cult centers of Apollo resided in Delphi and on Delos; there is evidence of the worship of Apollo on Delos dated to the seventh century BCE.

Apollo was known as a protector of children, and he was considered the deity in charge of initiation rites for children passing into adulthood; the cutting of hair at the end of the initiation was dedicated to him. Apollo was also involved with athletic and military training. Additionally, he was connected with philosophy, poetry, and music, all of which had a role in Greek education. Both the Muses and Apollo were known for protecting epic singers.

Apollo had many affairs with mortal women, the Muses, and nymphs. Some women did not return Apollo's affection. The nymph Daphne was changed into a laurel tree to escape Apollo, and when Cassandra rejected him, he cursed her with the gift of uttering true prophecies that no one would believe. Many of his children were considered demigods, musicians, and gods.

Apollo was also known as a healer, and that aspect was worshipped in the Ionian region of Greece. Eventually, the worship of the god Asclepius, who was Apollo's son by Coronis, surpassed the worship of Apollo as a healer. Apollo, however, remained connected with purification from disease. In 430 BCE, the Athenians erected a statue of Apollo in an attempt to save their city from a plague.

The Romans worshipped Apollo under the same name as the Greeks. The veneration of Apollo began in Italy

around 433 BCE, when the temple Apollo Medicus was built in order to try to stop the plague in Rome. That temple remained the sole Roman temple dedicated to Apollo until the reign of Augustus. Scholars believe that Augustus made Apollo his personal god in reaction to his rival Mark Antony's reverence for Dionysus. In 28 BCE, a second temple devoted to Apollo, adjoined to a large library, was built in Rome because Augustus believed that Apollo helped him defeat Antony and Cleopatra VII Thea Philopator at the Battle of Actium.

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