

ARTEMIS



MYTHOLOGICAL SHEETS

I love you all!



A Look-It-Up Guide to the Goddesses of Mythology

MEGAN E. BRYANT

SCHOLASTIC

CONTENT CONSULTANT

William Hansen

**Professor Emeritus of Classical Studies and Folklore
Indiana University, Bloomington**

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ARTEMIS

Life can be a bear!

Sounds Like: ah'-luh-mis

Roman Name: Diana

Aliases: Cynthia, Potnia Theron, Lochela, Agrotora, Kourotrophus

Generation: Titan
 Olympian
 Other

Divine Powers: Chaoste love
 Childbirth
 Hunting
 Women
 Youth

Attributes: Bear
 Bow
 Moon
 Silver arrow
 Deer
 Delos
 Temple at Ephesus

Top 10 Things to Know About Me:

- The day after I was born, I helped my mom deliver my twin brother, Apollo.
- When I was young, I begged my dad, Zeus, to let me stay a maiden forever.
- I demand that the nymphs who follow me maintain their purity—and if they don't, I punish them! Hight, Callisto?
- As goddess of the hunt, I lead my BFFs through the woods, seeking wild game, followers, I'll hunt him down!
- If a man threatens my virtue (or that of my followers), I'll hunt him down!
- Aphrodite and I don't see eye-to-eye on love.
- Orion was my friend—until he got too friendly, so I killed him.
- I protect the young of all creatures. Ity-bitty, furry-wuffy bunnies are so cute!
- Like my brother Apollo, I can heal people—or make them sick.
- My silver arrows can bring women a peaceful, painless, and permanent sleep!

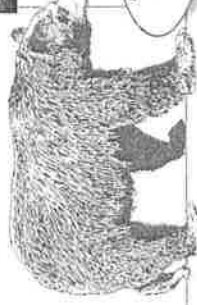
TOUGH STUFF

Get a grip, girls. Those boyfriends you're always boo-hoing about aren't worth the trouble. Take it from me—I'm bad to the bone and never waste a moment wondering if some guy is into me or not. Not convinced? Join me for a hunting party tonight, and you'll see my point. Meet me by moonlight, and don't forget your bows and arrows—I'd lend you mine, but you don't want to touch the silver ones!

REALITY CHECK

The Artemis 30 is an antiaircraft weapon used by the Greek armed forces. It is effective against both ground targets and low-flying targets.

Want to know more? Go to: <http://www.helicopters.com/weapon/artemis.asp>



This is going to hurt!

Artemis turned her friend Callisto into a bear and shot her!

FOES



Callisto



Orion



Hera



Actaeon



Niobe



Agamemnon

FAMILY, FLINGS, FRIENDS, AND FOES

▼ Parents



Zeus and Leto

▼ Siblings



Apollo

▼ Friends



Selene



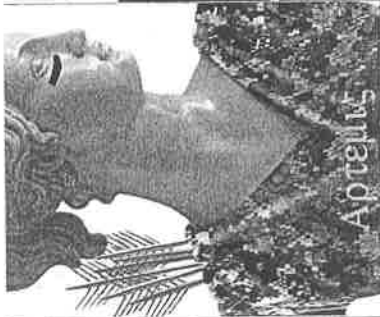
Hippolytus



Nymphs



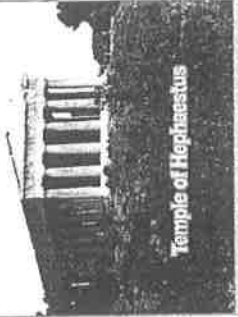
Chiron



IT'S GREEK TO ME

How were the Greek gods and goddesses worshipped? Many had temples dedicated to them, where public religious rituals were held to honor them. These rituals often included animal sacrifices, athletic contests, and dramatic performances. Other rituals were private, conducted by individuals.

Some **deities**, like the goddess of grain, Demeter, and the god of wine, Dionysus, were the focus of mystery cults — top-secret groups that promised participants a better existence, both during life and after death.



Temple of Hephaestus

ARTEMIS MYTHOLOGY

“Girlz rule!”

A BUMPY BIRTH

Artemis's mother wanders the world to find a shady spot. Artemis and her twin brother, Apollo, were the children of Leto and the great god Zeus.

Zeus's wife, Hera, was well known for her jealous rages, which were usually directed at her husband's romantic partners and his children with them.

When Hera learned that Leto was pregnant with Zeus's twins, she came up with a particularly awful punishment: She forbade Leto to give birth anywhere on land, or anywhere that the sun shone.

Poseidon, the god of the sea and

I helped my brother OUT!



Zeus's brother, took pity on Leto. He revealed a small island of Delos, an island that had previously been underwater.

There, Leto gave birth to Artemis, who then helped deliver her own brother, Apollo, cementing her role as goddess of childbirth.

REALITY CHECK

Delos is an island considered sacred by the ancient Greeks, so, if one of her followers left built temples and statues that honor the gods. It is in the Aegean Sea, near the island of Mykonos.

PURITY POWER

The goddess gets the okay from her dad to stay single — forever.

Artemis was a little girl, and she asked of her father, Zeus, that she be allowed to remain a chaste maiden forever. Zeus granted her request, promising his daughter she'd never have to marry. Artemis demanded that her followers remain chaste, too.

If one of her followers left a temple, Artemis would get angry. But if Artemis caught one of her followers with a boyfriend, she would fly into a terrible rage. Callisto, a favorite companion of Artemis, learned

“I'm not that kind of goddess.”

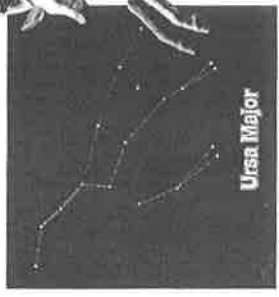


this the hard way when she gave birth to Zeus's son Arcas. An outraged Artemis turned Callisto into a bear and shot her!

REALITY CHECK

According to myth, after Artemis killed Callisto, Zeus placed Callisto in the sky as the constellation Ursa Major, which takes its name from *ursus*, the Latin word for “bear.” Her son Arcas became Ursa Minor.

Want to know more? Go to: <http://www.marshville.com/our-ursa-ursae/> <http://www.marshville.com/our-ursa-ursae/>

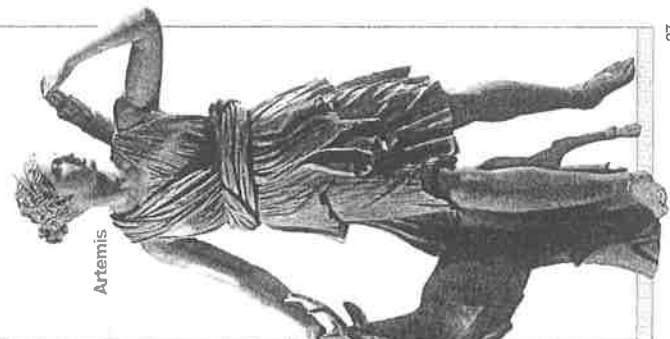


Ursa Major

SILVER SLEEP

Artemis's silver arrows promise a gentle death to women.

Like her brother Apollo, Artemis had healing powers. She also had the power to sicken or even kill women. She would shoot her silver arrows to deliver a painless death to women. It was often said that a woman who died during childbirth had taken an arrow from Artemis.



Artemis



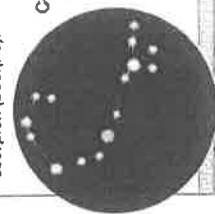
“This will hurt me more than it hurts you!”

ARTEMIS AND ORION
A beautiful friendship ends in a painful way.

No goddess or mortal woman was a better hunter than Artemis — so it was logical that she and Orion, himself a great hunter, would be close friends. But their friendship took a terrible turn when Orion, attracted to Artemis's beauty, tried to strike up a romance with the goddess. Artemis was so disgusted by Orion's advances that she killed him for daring to get a little too friendly. According to other stories, Gaia created a scorpion that attacked and killed Orion after he boasted about his hunting skills.

REALITY CHECK

According to myth, after the great hunter Orion was killed, Zeus placed him in the sky as the constellation Orion; beside Orion, Zeus placed a scorpion (Scorpio).



Constellation of Scorpio

ATTACK ON ACTAEON
Artemis turns the hunter into the hunted.

Actaeon was a great hunter who had the misfortune of offending Artemis and paying a dear price. One day, while he was hunting in the woods, Actaeon wandered away from his hunting party. He came to a hidden pool where Artemis and her attendants were bathing. Actaeon made the mistake of watching them for just a moment — and they

“What’s this world coming to when a goddess can’t take a bath in peace?”

caught him looking. Furious, Artemis turned Actaeon into a stag. Actaeon the stag was attacked and killed by his own dogs.

REALITY CHECK

The painting *Diana and Actaeon* (1556–1559) by Titian, an Italian Renaissance master, depicts Actaeon encountering Diana (the Roman name for Artemis) and her attendants while they bathe.

Want to know more? Go to: <http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/>



Actaeon

For more, go to:



Artemis

Niobe

Niobe's children

THE PRICE OF PRIDE

Niobe brags about her kids and loses every one of them.

Actaeon was a mortal woman who had fourteen children — seven handsome sons and seven beautiful daughters. One day, he made a fateful mistake. She boasted that she was a better hunter than the goddess Leto, Apollo and Artemis's mom, because she had seven times as many children.

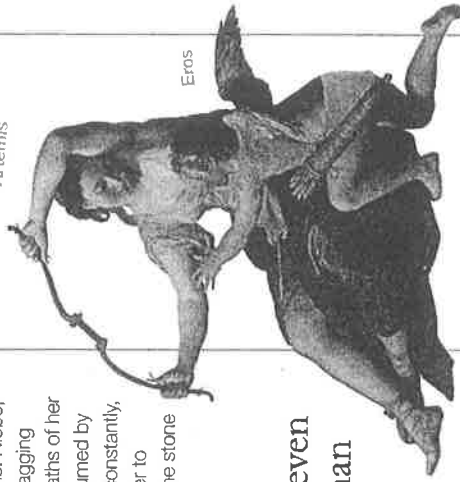
Artemis and Apollo weren't about to let anyone criticize their mother, especially not some ordinary mortal. With her war arrows and accurate aim, Artemis shot and killed every

AGAMEMNON'S CHOICE

The wind goes out of Agamemnon's sails.

When the Greeks declared war on the city of Troy, they chose Agamemnon as their leader. As the Greeks sailed toward Troy, their fleet was held up at Aulis by adverse winds sent by the goddess Artemis because Agamemnon had offended her. To appease Artemis and secure a favorable change of wind, Agamemnon agreed to sacrifice his eldest daughter, Iphigenia, to the goddess. At the last moment Artemis spared the girl's life and allowed the wind to fill the Greek ships' sails.

Artemis



Eros

“My aim is even sharper than my silver arrows!”

[Back](#)

[Print this page](#)

Artemis

Artemis, «*AHR tuh mihs*», was a goddess in Greek mythology. She was the daughter of Zeus, the king of the gods, and the goddess Leto. The god Apollo was her twin. Artemis was sometimes identified with the moon goddess Selene. The Roman fertility goddess Diana closely resembled her.

Artemis was the goddess of childbirth and female maturation. Young girls about to be married prayed to her and sometimes dedicated their dolls or a lock of hair to her. But Artemis could be cruel and destructive. She and Apollo killed the children of Niobe, queen of Thebes, after Niobe boasted that she had more children than Leto. The Greeks often blamed Artemis for the sudden death of women.

Artemis was a virgin goddess who demanded that her followers dedicate themselves to lives of purity. According to one myth, Artemis shot one of her followers, the nymph Callisto, with an arrow after Callisto became pregnant by Zeus. Other sources say she transformed her into a bear. Several myths tell of attempts to rape Artemis and of her successful defense.

Artemis was the goddess of wild animals and hunting. Artists showed her as a beautiful young huntress carrying a bow and a quiver of arrows, often with a deer at her side.

Contributor:

- Nancy Felson, Ph.D., Professor of Classics, University of Georgia.

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Artemis

Artemis was the legendary Olympian goddess of hunting, chastity, childbirth, vegetation, and wild animals. The virgin daughter of Zeus and Leto, she was also the elder twin sister of Apollo and was depicted as an eternally young girl. Artemis was identified with the Italian goddess Diana.

Artemis was titled *Potnia Theron* ("Mistress of the Animals"), and she protected young animals. Scholars believe that all over Greece, Artemis was syncretized with other Greek nature deities. Later, Artemis was worshipped as the preferred goddess in rural areas. Additionally, she was associated with dryads and naiads, and human virgins impersonating nymphs would dance in her honor.



Throughout the Peloponnese, Artemis was called *Limnatis* or *Limnaea* ("Lady of the Lake"), and she took care of spring waters. Depending on the region of Greece, the cults of Artemis varied greatly, but she was always associated with nature. One of her nicknames was *Elaphebolos* ("the Shooter of Deer") and a month, *Elaphebolion*, was named after that aspect of Artemis. Artemis was sometimes syncretized with *Eileithyia*, the goddess of childbirth, as well as with *Hecate*. Artemis was also associated with violence and death because as a deity, she was known to be as pitiless and wild as nature itself. Both Artemis and Apollo killed Niobe's children, and in some traditions she was associated with the deaths or punishment of Actaeon, Callisto, Iphigenia, and Orion.

At the *Tauropolia* festival in Attica, which specifically revered Artemis as a *Tauropolos* ("Bull Goddess"), a man's neck would be nicked with a sword so that some drops of his blood could be spilled for her. In the *Laphria* festival at Patrae, deer pulled a chariot carrying a virgin priestess. Many animals, including boars and deer that were not usually killed for religious purposes, were sacrificed at the *Laphria*.

Artemis was sometimes affiliated with war. As *Artemis Agrotera*, the Athenians and Spartans sacrificed goats in her name. The Athenians sacrificed 500 goats annually during a festival that occurred as tribute to her as she was believed to have aided the Athenians at the Battle of Marathon. In Sparta, *Artemis Orthia* was connected to the extensive process whereby Spartan boys were trained to become skilled warriors.

At two sanctuaries in Attica, Artemis was worshipped as *Brauronia* and *Munichia*, where girls, aged five to 10, served Artemis and were called *arktoi* ("bears"). They would stay in service until their transition into marriageable virgins. A ritual custom from another area was called the *nebreia*, which girls were dedicated to serve Artemis for a period of time and were named fawns (*nebroi*).

In art, Artemis was frequently depicted with deer or hunting dogs. She was not popular in Greek art, however, until around the fourth century BCE. In Ephesus, the worship of Artemis possessed certain Eastern aspects. The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and it survived until 401 CE. Eventually, Artemis was syncretized with Diana, the Italic goddess of the moon. The etymology of Diana's name stems from the root "*dyw*," which means "the bright one."

With the addition of Artemis' qualities, Diana became connected with the wild. In one of her most famous cults, which was centered in a grove of trees, she was worshipped as Diana Nemorensis ("Diana of the Wood") and was associated with the Latin League. Diana's most famous temple, which was located on Aventine Hill in Rome, is believed to date back to the sixth century BCE. Diana was mostly a goddess of animals and of women; torch-bearing women would often hold processions in her honor. Diana was also a goddess of slaves and of asylum; slaves in Rome celebrated her festival, which occurred on August 13, as a holiday.

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[back to top](#) **Entry ID: 577361**