

LESSON PLAN 1: WHAT IS MYTHOLOGY?

Objective:

To learn the rules of the classroom and to become familiar with the term “mythology.”

Materials:

Overhead projector	Markers
Transparency sheets	Pencils
Scissors	Family Tree of the Gods
Paper	Chalkboard/Chalk
Glue	Masking tape
Construction paper	Greek Pottery cut-out patterns
Dei et Deae Chart	

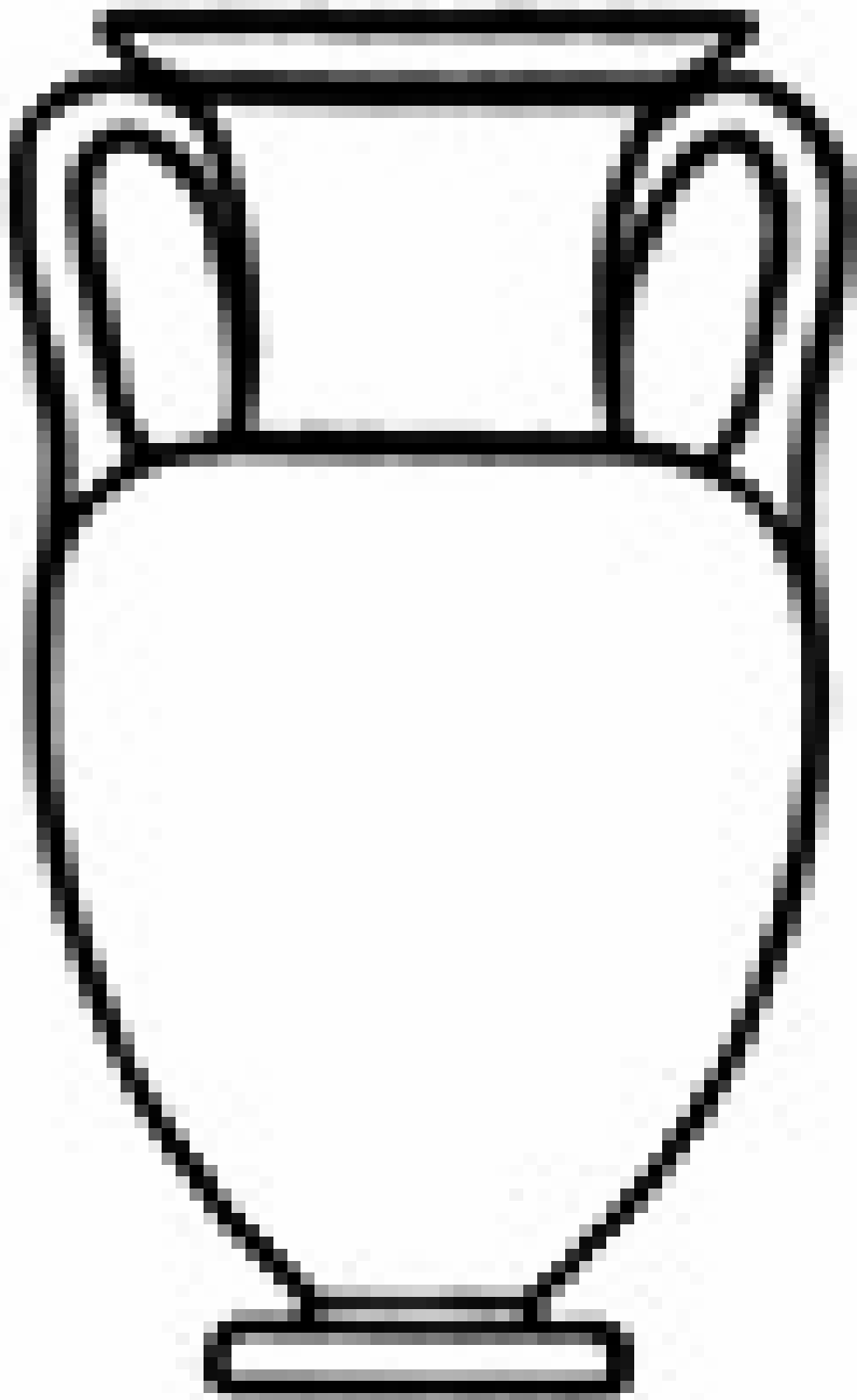
Preparation:

- Make mythology/art transparencies to be used on projector.
- Decide on a myth to be read aloud to class.
- Place construction paper, paper, scissors, markers, pencils, glue, and Greek pottery cut-out patterns neatly at the center of the desks.
- Make a “Dei et Deae” chart listing the gods/goddesses, their common symbols, what they are a god/goddess of, and their relationships with each other.

Procedure:

1. Greet students by saying “Salvete, omnes!” Ask students what they thought I said. Tell students what I actually said and teach them to respond with “Salve, Magister.”
2. Cover the rules of the classroom (“Give Me Five!”). Familiarize students with how class will be run generally (a quote relating to mythology will be examined at the start of each class and a myth will be presented toward the end of each class).
3. Ask what the students think the word “mythology” means. Listen to what students already know. List some of the students’ answers on the chalkboard. Give a definition of “mythology” and put an example of a popular myth on the board, such as “If you cross your eyes a lot, they will get stuck that way”. Next, ask volunteers for more examples of myths.
4. Show transparencies of gods and goddesses depicted on frescoes, pottery, mosaics, and sculptures (this is a good place to also start introducing the various types of art) to supplement the introduction of the gods and goddesses listed on the Dei et Deae chart. Pass around a family tree of the gods during your discussion of the deities.

5. Lead the students to a comfortable corner of the room. Read aloud to the students a predetermined myth. After reading a few lines of the myth, call on student volunteers to come up to the front and read.
6. Ask students if they enjoyed the story (why/why not?). Create discussion with follow-up questions from responses of the students.
7. If time permits, have students return to their desks and ask them to illustrate and color their favorite scene from the myth onto the pottery cut-outs. Ask them to cut out the pottery shape and paste it onto a piece of colored construction paper of their choice. Close lesson with presentations of the children's Greek pottery cut-outs. Collect projects so that they may be hung on the walls. If time runs out, this activity may be reserved for a day when class finishes early.



AMPHORA POTTERY CUT-OUT (PREVIOUS PAGE)

STAMNOS POTTERY CUT-OUT (BELOW)





Dei et Deae (Gods and Goddesses)

Roman God / Goddess	Greek Counterpart	Responsibility	Male / Female	Symbol
Jupiter/Jove	Zeus	Sky, King of Olympus	Male	thunderbolt/eagle/oak
Juno	Hera	Marriage, Queen of Olympus	Female	scepter/diadem/peacock
Mars	Ares	War	Male	vulture/spear/dog
Venus	Aphrodite	Love, beauty	Female	myrtle tree/dove
Minerva	Athena	Wisdom	Female	aegis/owl/olive tree
Neptune	Poseidon	Sea	Male	trident/horse
Ceres	Demeter	Harvest	Female	bundle of grain/torch/corn
Vulcan	Hephaistos	Fire, forge, made armor and weapons for the gods	Male	anvil/axe
Diana	Artemis	Moon, hunt, fertility and childbirth	Female	bow/deer
Bacchus	Dionysos	Wine, Parties	Male	grape vine/ivy/thyrsos
Mercury	Hermes	Messenger, trade, travel	Male	caduceus/winged boots
Vesta	Hestia	Hearth (fireplace)	Female	fire
Pluto	Hades	King of the Underworld	Male	-
Penates	-	Household Protectors	Males	-

