

Participants in the mythology tour will explore common themes among myths of varying cultures, and examine the symbols and attributes of selected mythological beings. Use the suggestions below either before or after your museum visit to encourage further inquiry in the classroom.

#### ACTIVITIES

- During the museum visit, students will learn that over time, artists have given us widely varying interpretations of the same mythological characters. Read an especially descriptive passage of a myth to students (see resources below for ideas), and ask them to draw their impression of the character or scene being discussed. Afterwards, they can share their drawings and see how their ideas differed.

- Have a discussion with students about how myths from around the world often have common themes. Use the books mentioned in the resources section below for stories that might help you in this conversation. Ask students to compare and contrast creation stories, or flood myths, or any other common type of myth. What do they think the purposes of mythology might have been in ancient times – how did these stories serve the people who believed them?

- In drawing or writing, modernize a mythological being that you learned about at the Walters. What would a present-day god of the sea, love, or war look like? Change the symbols and attributes of your being to reflect these ideas. As a follow-up, students can write a present-day myth using their character as well as those of two other students in the class.

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

*Illustrated Book of Myths*, Neil Philip

*In the Beginning: Creation Stories from Around the World*, Virginia Hamilton

*Favorite Folktales from Around the World*, Jane Yolen

*The Complete World of Greek Mythology*, Richard Buxton

*Heroes, Gods, and Monsters of the Greek Myths*, Bernard Evslin

[www.mythweb.com](http://www.mythweb.com)

[www.artsmia.org/mythology/introduction.html](http://www.artsmia.org/mythology/introduction.html)



Use the Walters' *World Religion and Mythology* Teacher Resource Kit for more lesson ideas, resources, and images of objects! Email [schoolprograms@thewalters.org](mailto:schoolprograms@thewalters.org) for more information.