

HAVE YOU EVER...

...done something even though you were expressly told not to do it?

- Why did you choose to go ahead and do it?
- Were there any consequences?
- What were they?
- Did they have a short or long term impact?

A THOUGHT TO CONSIDER

Are you more likely to WANT to do something if you've been told you can't?

Why is that?

GREEK MYTHOLOGY PANDORA'S BOX

Has anyone heard of Pandora's Box?
What is it usually used in reference to?

"You don't want to be doing that! You'll end up opening Pandora's Box!"

JOG YOUR MEMORY

WHAT ARE THE THREE PURPOSES OF GREEK MYTH?

1. To help the Ancient Greeks understand the world in which they lived – to explain things (such as the weather or the seasons) that they had no other explanation for.
2. To teach the Ancient Greeks how to behave and about consequences of actions – a moralistic purpose.
3. To give the Ancient Greeks stories about the gods and goddesses that formed their religion.

GREEK MYTHOLOGY PANDORA'S BOX

We will read the myth of Pandora's Box together.

As we are reading, try to decide which PURPOSE this myth would have served for the Ancient Greeks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Om3Xd6Ka-Go>

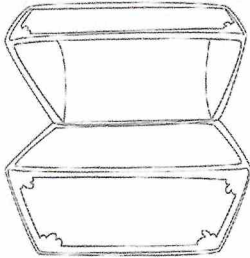
GREEK MYTHOLOGY PANDORA'S BOX CONTEXT

Think back to Theseus and the Minotaur – what purpose did this myth serve?

What purpose does the myth of Pandora's Box serve?
Are they different purposes or the same?

Discuss with a neighbour and write an answer in your book.
Be ready to share!

INSIDE PANDORA'S BOX



• Pandora's Box was full of the all of the worst things in the world: War and Famine, Crime and Pestilence, Spite and Cruelty, Sickness and Malice, Envy, Woe, Wickedness... the list goes on!

• What would YOU find in your Pandora's Box? What are the worst things in the world to YOU?

Does the tale of Pandora's Box remind you of any stories from other religions or cultures that attempt to explain how 'evil' entered the world?



THE WORLD NARRATIVE

Adam and Eve!

It is Eve who can't resist eating from the Tree of Knowledge, even though she was told not to by God.

Her curiosity explained to Christians how good AND evil was let into the world.



THE WORLD NARRATIVE

Why do you think there are similarities between the myths and stories from different cultures and religions?

Discuss together and try to come up with an explanation.



THE WORLD NARRATIVE

It could be that a lot of myths are rooted in real historical events that actually happened, but that over thousands of years, were embellished and distorted and adopted by cultures as 'their' mythical stories.

Also, travelling afar was difficult and so the average person did not have knowledge of the whole world like we do today – one culture (such as the Ancient Greeks) may believe that their religion was the ONLY religion.

Stories from other countries and cultures would become myths themselves!



A MODERN MYTH

Think back to how Theseus and the Minotaur was used as inspiration for the plot of The Hunger Games.

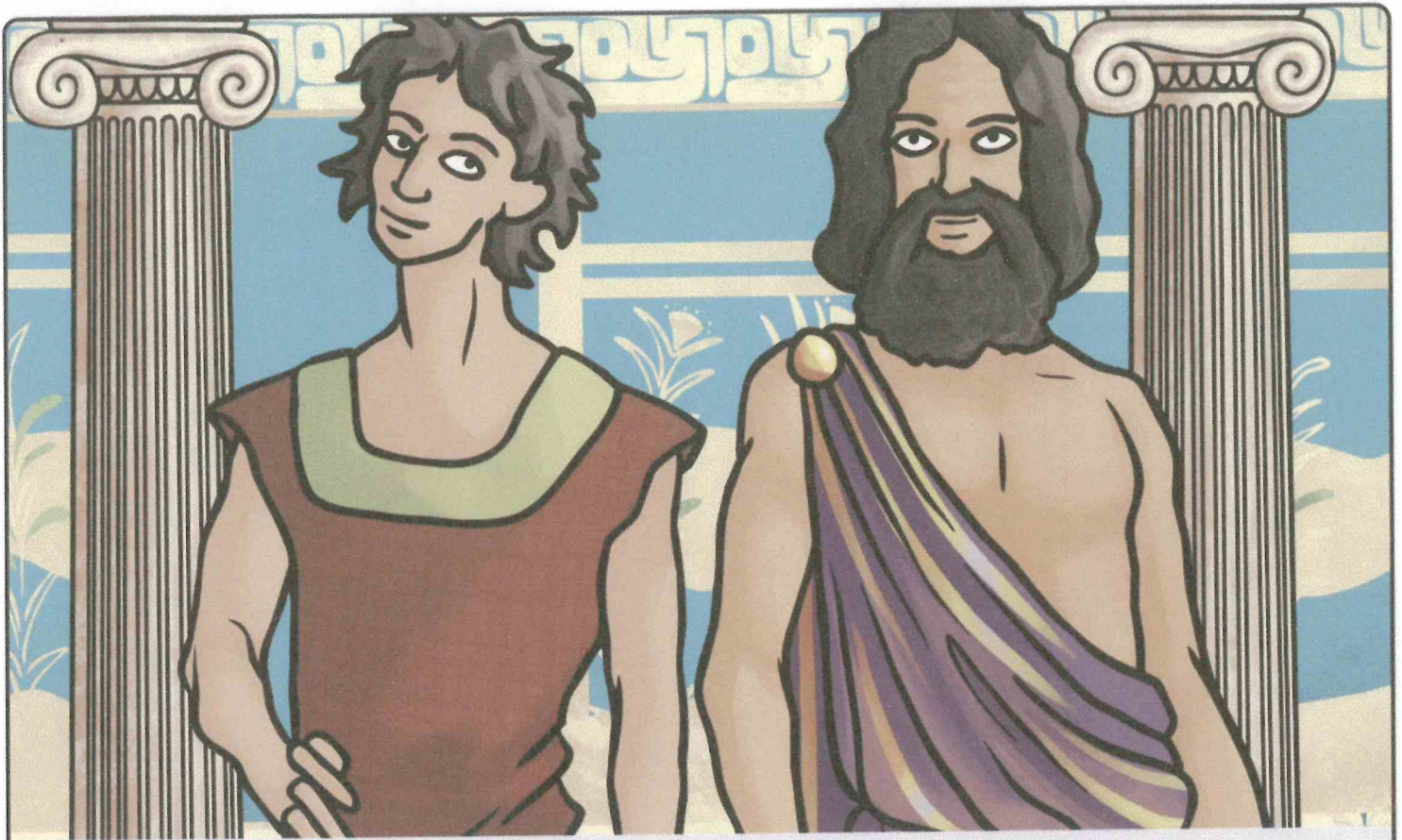
Write your own modern retelling of Pandora's Box.

Use the basic elements of the story – curiosity leading to something more sinister – to write your own narrative.



Pandora's Box

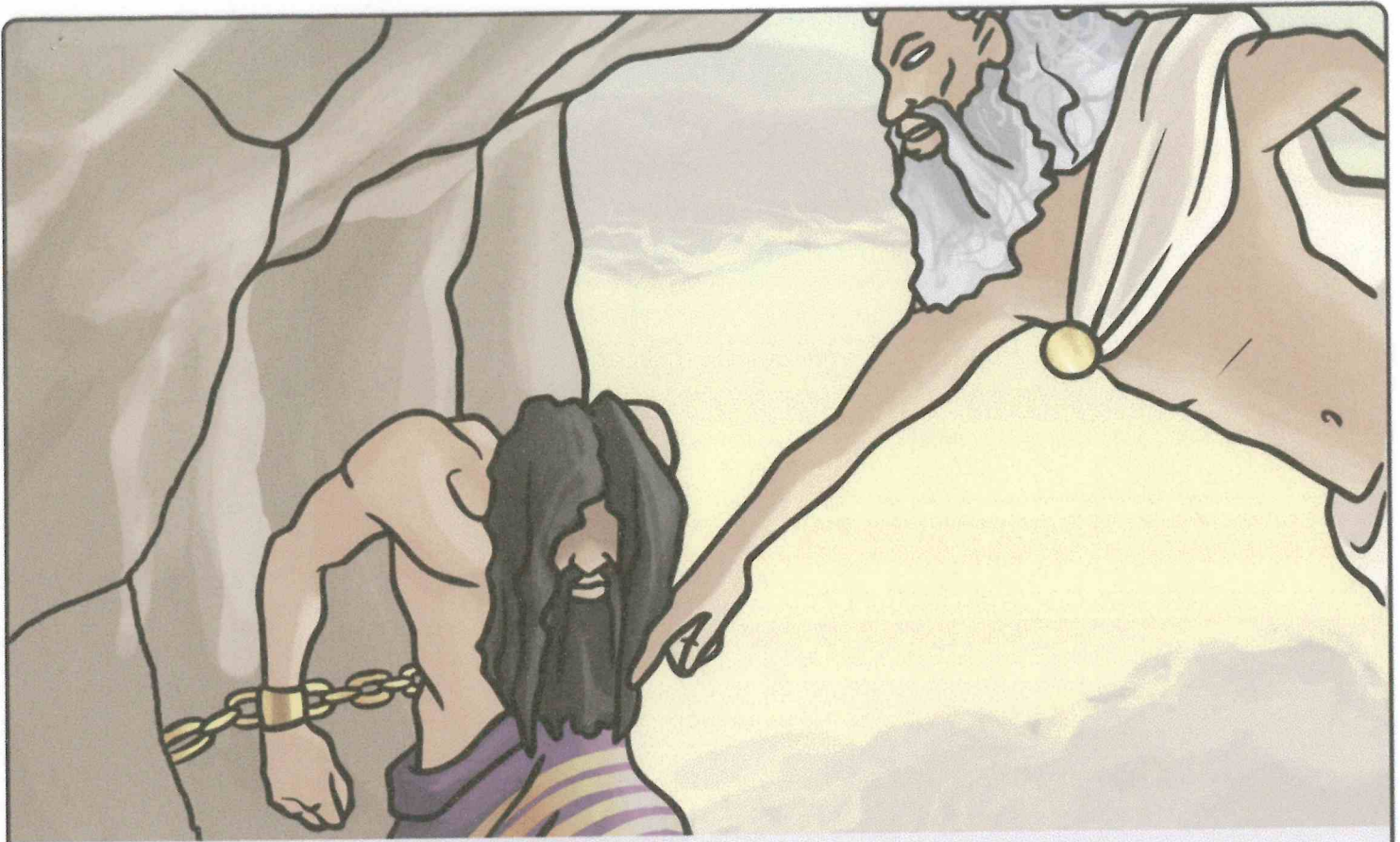




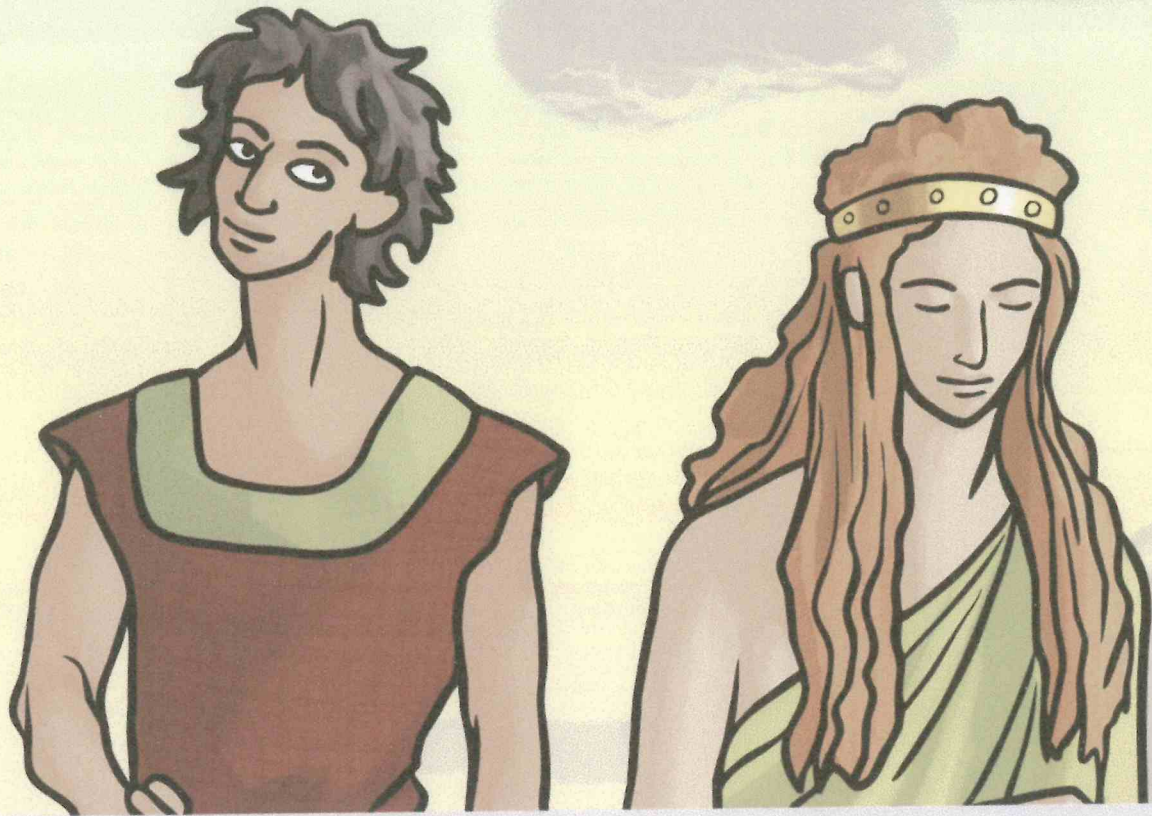
A long time ago in ancient Greece, there lived two brothers named Epimetheus and Prometheus. They were good gods with very kind hearts. Zeus, the most powerful of all gods, had hidden fire from mankind, never allowing them to make tools or cook their food. Prometheus, with his kind heart, thought this was unfair.



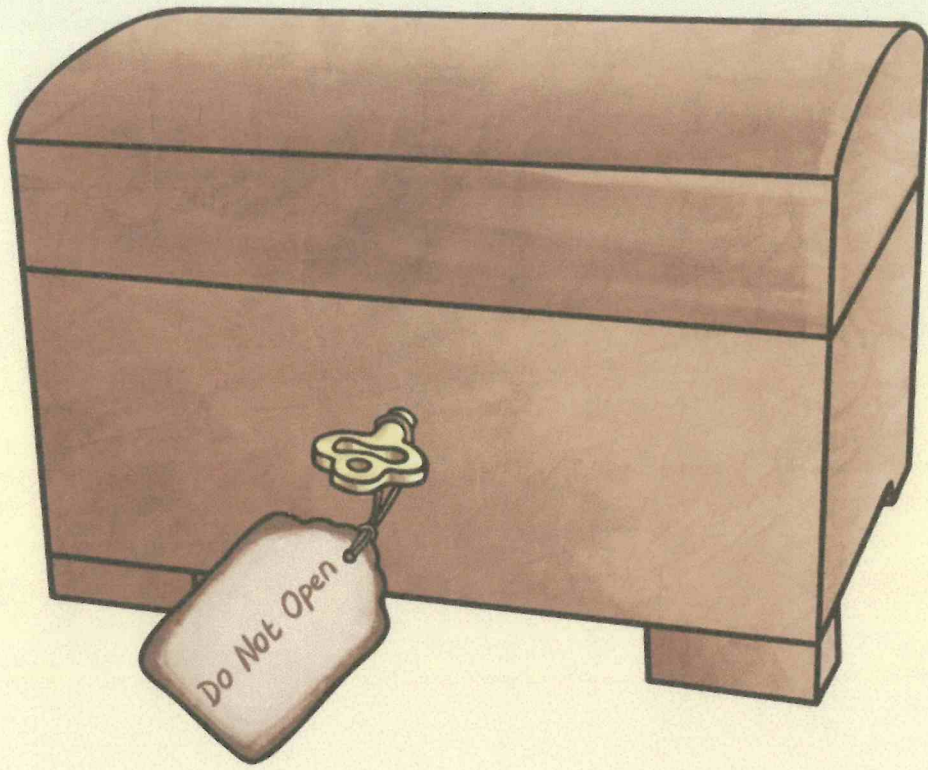
Prometheus was clever and knew that on the Isle of Lemnos lived Hephaestus, the god's handyman. Hephaestus was a blacksmith and Zeus allowed him to use fire to make things for the gods. Prometheus travelled to Lemnos, stole the fire from Hephaestus and gave it to man. He also taught humans civilizing arts such as writing, medicine, mathematics and science.



Zeus was furious at Prometheus and as punishment, chained him to the side of a cliff for many years. Zeus decided that the humans also needed to be punished for their lack of respect. Zeus was creative when it came to revenge and therefore came up with a very cunning plan.



With the help of Hephaestus, Zeus sculpted a woman out of clay. The goddess Athena breathed life into the clay and the woman came to life. Aphrodite made her beautiful and Hermes taught her how to be both charming and deceitful. Zeus called her Pandora and sent her to Epimetheus, as he knew that he was lonely.



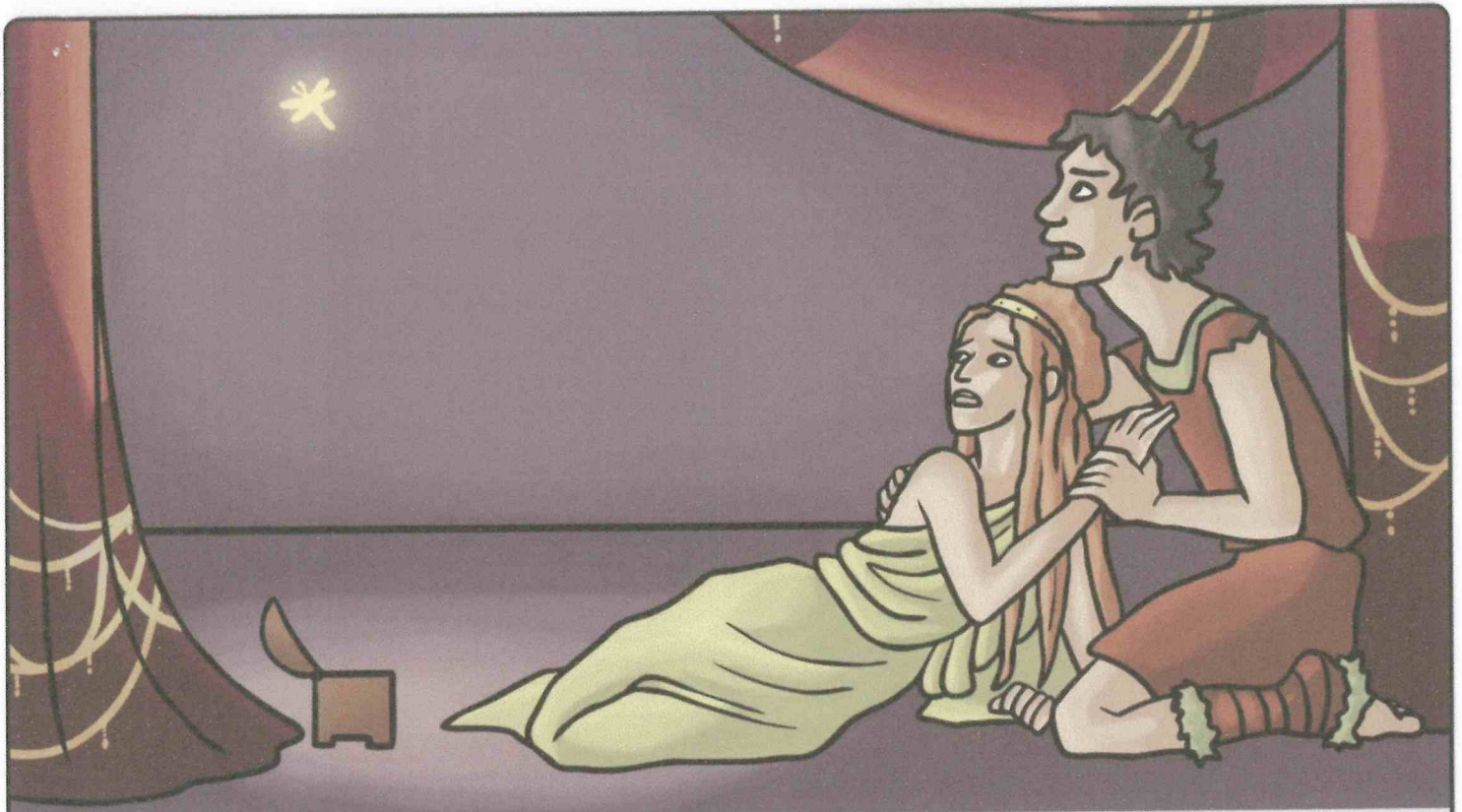
Epimetheus went to visit his brother, and Prometheus warned him not to accept any gifts from the gods. However, Epimetheus was so charmed by Pandora that he thought she could never cause any harm. Zeus was pleased that his plan was working, and as a wedding gift, gave Pandora a small box.



When Pandora was given the box, she instantly became curious. The box was locked, but had a small key and a note attached to it that said, 'DO NOT OPEN'. Pandora had promised that she would not open the box, but all she could think about was its contents. Why would someone send her a box and not allow her to open it? Pandora could no longer stand the torture of not knowing what was in the beautiful box.



When she knew that Epimetheus was out of sight, Pandora placed the box on the floor and took the small gold key. She closed her eyes and took a deep breath as she unlocked the box. Pandora opened her eyes and pulled the box open, expecting to see fine silk dresses and jewellery; but there was not one gold bracelet or fine silk dress in sight! Instead, Zeus had packed terrible evils into the box and out poured sickness, death, poverty and sadness in the form of a horrible black mass.



Pandora slammed the lid shut but it was too late; the evils had already escaped into the world. Epimetheus heard her weeping and ran into the room to console her. Pandora could still hear a tiny voice inside the box, pleading to be released. Epimetheus and Pandora thought that nothing could be worse than the horrors that had already been released, so together they opened the box. Out fluttered hope in the form of a beautiful gold dragonfly, healing some of the sickness and sorrow. Even though Pandora had released suffering and sadness upon the world, she had also released hope and this made all the difference in the world.

Pandora's Box

A long time ago in Ancient Greece, there lived two brothers named Epimetheus and Prometheus. They were good gods with very kind hearts. Zeus, the most powerful of all gods, had hidden fire from mankind, never allowing them to make tools or cook their food. Prometheus, with his kind heart, thought this was unfair.

Prometheus was clever and knew that on the Isle of Lemnos lived Hephaestus, who was a blacksmith. Zeus allowed Hephaestus to use fire to make things for the gods. Prometheus travelled to Lemnos and stole the fire from Hephaestus and gave it to man. He also taught humans civilizing arts such as writing, medicine, mathematics and science.

Zeus was furious at Prometheus and, as punishment, chained him to the side of a cliff for many years. Zeus decided that the humans also needed to be punished for their lack of respect. Zeus was creative when it came to revenge and therefore came up with a very cunning plan.

With the help of Hephaestus, he sculpted a woman out of clay. The goddess Athena breathed life into the clay and the woman came to life. Aphrodite made her beautiful and Hermes taught her how to be both charming and deceitful. Zeus called her Pandora and sent her to Epimetheus, as he knew that he was lonely.

Epimetheus went to visit his brother and Prometheus warned him not to accept any gifts from the gods. However, Epimetheus was so charmed by Pandora that he thought she could never cause any harm. Zeus was pleased that his plan was working and, as a wedding gift, gave Pandora a small box.

When Pandora was given the box, she instantly became curious. The box was locked, but had a small key and a note attached to it that said 'DO NOT OPEN!' Pandora had promised that she would not open the box, but all she could think about was its contents. Why would someone send her a box and not allow her to open it? Pandora could no longer stand the torture of not knowing what was in the beautiful box.

When she knew that Epimetheus was out of sight, Pandora placed the box on the floor and took the small gold key. She closed her eyes and took a deep breath as she unlocked the box. She opened her eyes and pulled the box open, expecting to see fine silk dresses and jewellery. But there was not one gold bracelet or fine silk dress in sight! Instead, Zeus had packed terrible evils into the box and out poured sickness, death, poverty and sadness in the form of a horrible black mass.

Pandora slammed the lid shut, but it was too late; the evils had already escaped into the world. Epimetheus heard her weeping and ran into the room to console her. Pandora could still hear a tiny voice inside the box, pleading to be released. Epimetheus and Pandora thought that nothing could be worse than the horrors that had already been released, so together they opened the box. Out fluttered hope in the form of a beautiful gold dragonfly, healing some the sickness and sorrow.

Even though Pandora had released suffering and sadness upon the world, she had also released hope, and this made all the difference in the world.

Pandora's Box

Comprehension Questions

1. Who was the most powerful god?

2. How could Prometheus be described?

3. How did Zeus punish Prometheus for stealing fire?

4. Who else did Zeus punish?

5. Who helped Zeus to create Pandora and how did they help?

6. Who was given a small box?

7. What came out of the box?

8. Why did Epimetheus need to console Pandora?

9. Why did Pandora and Epimetheus open the box again?

10. Why did hope make a difference in the world?

Pandora's Box

Comprehension Answers

1. Who was the most powerful god?

Zeus.

2. How could Prometheus be described?

Prometheus had a kind heart and was clever.

3. How did Zeus punish Prometheus for stealing fire?

Zeus chained Prometheus to the side of a cliff for many years.

4. Who else did Zeus punish?

Humans.

5. Who helped Zeus to create Pandora and how did they help?

Hephaestus helped to mould Pandora out of clay, Athena breathed life into her, Aphrodite made her beautiful and Hermes taught her to be both charming and deceitful.

6. Who was given a small box?

Pandora and Epimetheus as a wedding present.

7. What came out of the box?

Sickness, death, poverty and sadness in the form of a horrible black mass.

8. Why did Epimetheus need to console Pandora?

Pandora was weeping because she had let all the horrible things into the world.

9. Why did Pandora and Epimetheus open the box again?

They heard a little voice inside the box and thought nothing could be worse than what they had already released.

10. Why did hope make a difference in the world?

Hope healed some of the sickness and sorrow.

Zeus -- Ruler of the Gods

What are Zeus' actions during this myth? What does he actually do?

What adjectives, verbs and adverbs are used to describe Zeus and his actions? Add to the examples given below.

Grievously

Cruelty

Punished



What impression does this give you of Zeus?

What would the Ancient Greeks have thought about their God of Gods?