An Introduction to the Gods (And Goddesses!)

Zeus - King of the Gods
Hera - Queen of the Gods
Aphrodite - goddess of love and beauty
Apollo - god of light, truth, healing, archery, music, poetry
Ares - god of war
Artemis - goddess of hunt, moon, children
Athena - goddess of wisdom, war, patriotism and good citizenship
Demeter - goddess of grain, agriculture, fertility
Dionysus - god of wine, vegetation, and theater
Hades - god of the underworld
Hephaestus - god of forge and fire
Hermes - messenger of the gods, god of motion, travelers, commerce, thieves, and sheep
Hestia - goddess of the hearth and home
Poseidon - god of the sea, earthquakes, and horses
Aim: What purpose did this myth serve for the Greeks?
HW: Finish these questions and the paragraph on the back.
Study Questions:
1. Demeter assumes Zeus is behind the kidnapping. What does this tell us about him?

2. Why were the mortals and gods alike afraid of Hades?

3. What natural occurrence did this myth attempt to explain?

4. Based on this story, what do you think Demeter’s personality is?

5. Based on this story, what do you think Persephone’s personality is?

6. Return to AIM: What purpose did this myth serve for the Greeks?
Write a single well-developed paragraph answering the following prompt: Do you agree that Ascalaphus deserved punishment and Triptolemus deserved a reward? Explain using evidence from the text.
AIM: What did the Greeks seem to think about pride?
HW: Finish the study questions.

Study Questions: Arachne:
1. In the gods’ opinion, what would Arachne’s greatest fault be?

2. Why do you think Athena first disguises herself as an old lady?


Study Questions: Echo and Narcissus:
1. Define narcissism:

2. Does Hera’s punishment of Echo fit the crime?

3. From what you’ve read in this myth, what does it mean to be a narcissist?

4. What lessons did the Greek storytellers hope to convey with this myth?
Study Questions for both stories:

1. Why was it bad in ancient times to be too proud?

2. Why might the gods encourage humility?

3. Myths do not only teach lessons and morals, but they teach ideas that a society finds beneficial. What is the benefit of humility to a society?

4. Return to AIM: What did the Greeks think of pride?

The Story of Atalanta

AIM: How did the Greeks view gender roles?

HW: Finish study questions. Study Questions:

1. In ancient Greece, was Atalanta someone to be admired? Why or why not?

2. Would Hippomenes have won the race without the help of Venus? Explain.

3. Judging by this myth, what did the ancient Greeks think of women? Give reasons!

4. What was the theme or message of this myth? Be specific.
Directions: Choose ONE god or goddess from your packet. Read THREE myths concerning your choice and summarize them below. (The summary only needs to be a sentence or two.) From your readings, write a well-constructed paragraph (with quotes!) describing the personality of the god/dess chosen. Use quotes!

Notes: You may use the internet or print materials for this. Please PRINT OUT or PHOTOCOPY your myths and attach to this packet. Find some lesser known god/desses if you want! Don’t feel compelled to write about Zeus/Apollo/Athena/etc.

God/dess chosen:  
They are the god/dess of: 

Story #1 Title:  
Story #1 Summary: _____________________________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  

Story #2 Title:  
Story #2 Summary: _____________________________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  

Story #3 Title:  
Story #3 Summary: _____________________________________________________________  
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From your readings, write a well-constructed paragraph (with quotes!) describing the personality of the god/dess chosen. Use quotes!