

Hera

Vocabulary Words

1. worship (verb) to have or show a strong feeling of respect and admiration for God or a god
Example: On the island the people worshiped different gods.
2. childbirth (noun) the act of giving birth to a baby
Example: A great number of women used to die in childbirth.
3. pursue (verb) to follow someone or something, usually to try to catch him, her, or it
Example: The car was pursued by helicopters.
4. punish (verb) to cause someone who has done something wrong or committed a crime to suffer, by hurting them, forcing them to pay money, sending them to prison, etc.
Example: Those responsible for these crimes must be brought to court and punished.
5. rival (noun) a person, group, etc. competing with others for the same thing or in the same area:
Example: He beat his closest rival by 20 points.
6. divine (adjective) connected with a god, or like a god
Example: Some fans seem to regard the players as divine beings.
7. eliminate (verb) to remove or take away someone or something:
Example: A move toward healthy eating could help eliminate heart disease.
8. chariot (noun) a two-wheeled vehicle that was used in ancient times for racing and fighting and was pulled by a horse or horses
Example: They walked along the road where they once used to ride in their chariot.



In ancient Greek religion and mythology, Hera was both sister and wife to Zeus and the queen of the gods. She was **worshiped** as the queen of the heavens and as the protector of marriage and women. Because of her special relationship to women, she was one of the goddesses women called on during **childbirth**.

Hera was the daughter of Cronus and Rhea, both of whom belonged to an older group of Greek gods known as the Titans. In addition to Zeus, her brothers were Poseidon and Hades, and her sisters were Hestia and Demeter.

A large number of Hera's stories in Greek mythology relate to her jealousy over the attention Zeus paid to other females. Hera **pursued** and **punished** her **rivals**, whether human or **divine**, and frequently attempted to **eliminate** the children born of Zeus by these rivals.

Several animals were associated with Hera. The cuckoo was identified with her, and Zeus is said to have taken the form of that bird when he first courted her. Peacocks pulled her **chariot**, and cows were also sacred to her. Hera was often referred to as "cow-eyed" which perhaps meant "large-eyed." Hera was said to have the power to summon animals.

Hera was worshiped throughout ancient Greece. Among the many temples dedicated to her were those at or near Argos, Olympia, Mycenae, Sparta, and the island of Samos. She was the patron goddess of Argos and Samos, both of which held celebrations and processions in her honor.

Discussion

1. Athena has the power of wisdom. Aphrodite has the power of beauty. And Hera has the power over animals. What power would you like to have?
2. Why is it important to be loyal and faithful to one's husband/ wife?
3. Is revenge good or bad? Why?
4. How can a woman protect her marriage?
5. If you are to choose your symbolic animal, which animal would you choose?