

Hades

Vocabulary Words

1. picture (verb) to imagine something
Example: Picture the scene - the crowds of people and animals, the noise, the dirt.
2. jailer (noun) a prison guard
Example: Jailers make hourly safety checks of cells.
3. draw lots (phrasal verb) to make a decision by choosing from a set of objects such as pieces of paper or sticks that are all the same except for one:
Example: We drew lots to decide who would go.
4. divide (verb) to (cause to) separate into parts or groups:
Example: At the end of the lecture, I'd like all the students to divide into small discussion groups.
5. command (noun) control over someone or something and responsibility for him, her, or it
Example: Colonel Sailing has command over/is in command of the entire troop.
6. carry (verb) to hold something or someone with your hands, arms, or on your back and transport it, him, or her from one place to another
Example: Would you like me to carry your bag for you?



In ancient Greek mythology Hades was the god of the underworld, or land of the dead. The ancient Greeks also called him Pluto. Once people died and went to the underworld, they could not leave. For this reason Hades was often **pictured** holding a key. This represented his role as **jailer** of the dead.

According to legend, Hades was the son of Cronus and Rhea, king and queen of the Titans. The Titans were giants who ruled the world. Hades' brothers were the gods Poseidon and Zeus. The three brothers fought and won a long war against the Titans. The brothers then **drew lots** to decide how to **divide up** the world. Hades won **command** of the underworld.

The most famous story about Hades explains the change of seasons. Hades **carried** Persephone off to the underworld. She was the daughter of Demeter, the goddess of farming. Eventually, Persephone was able to leave the underworld. But she had to return there every year. Demeter would not let anything grow when Persephone was away. This created winter.

Discussion

1. What do you know about Hades?
2. Who do you think is a better leader, Hades or Lucifer?
3. Do you think it was fair for Hades to have the underworld as the place to rule?
4. If you can choose between becoming a ruler of the land, of the seas or of the underworld, which would you choose? Why?
5. Are you lucky when it comes to raffles or lotteries? Have you ever won anything?
6. Have you heard of Dante's Inferno? What do you think about it?