

GLOSSARY

Aegis (αἰγίς). A goatskin protection worn by Athena; it could also be shaken by Zeus to cause panic.

Agora (ἀγορά). The central open area of a city used for trade and as a general meeting-place.

Apotheosis (ἀποθέωσις). The elevation of a mortal to divine status.

Archon (ἄρχων). A government official.

Aristeia (ἀριστεία). A display of brave actions by a hero in battle.

Attribute. An object that characterises an individual.

Autochthonous (αὐτόχθων). Born directly from the earth.

Catasterism (καταστερισμός). The transformation of an animal or human (or even an artefact, as with the crown of Ariadne) into a constellation; it was the title of a work on the stars attributed to Hyginus.

Cithara (κιθάρα). A stringed instrument, something like a small harp, made from tortoise-shell and gut, which a minstrel would pluck to accompany his song.

-d. A suffix for a town and its surrounding area as *Argolid*, *Troad*.

-ds (*-dae/dai masc*, *-des fem*). A suffix for sons, daughters or descendants, as Heliadae 'sons of Helios', Heliades 'daughters of Helios', Heraclids 'descendants of Heracles'.

Epithet (ἐπίθετον). An adjective that characterises a god or hero as 'ox-eyed' Hera, 'swift-footed' Achilles.

Eponym (ἐπώνυμον). The name of a person that is given to a city, region or people, as Rhodos, eponym of Rhodes.

Eschatology (ἐσχατολογία). A body of myths or beliefs connected with life after death.

Exposure (ἔκθεσις). The practice of leaving unwanted babies in open country where there is little hope of survival.

Ithyphallic (ἰθυφαλλικός). With erect penis.

Hellenic (ἑλληνικός). Belonging to Greece, especially Classical Greece.

Hellenistic (ἑλληνιστικός). Belonging to Greece of the fourth and third centuries.

Hierophant (ἱεροφάντης). An attendant at a temple or ritual.

Metope (μετώπη). An architectural space that provides an opportunity for flat sculpture, like a frieze.

Mysteries (μυστήρια). Secret religious rituals connected with initiation or revelation.

Olympiad (ὀλυμπιάς). A block of four years between Olympic games used as a calendar to provide an historical date.

Petrifaction (ἀπολίθωσις). Transformation into stone.

Shape-shifter (πρωτεϊκή μεταλλαγή). A mythical person, usually connected with the sea, who can change their appearance into a variety of human and animal forms.

Soothsayer (μάντις / προφήτης). Someone with the power of prophecy who usually has some status in the community.

Theogony (θεογονία). A genealogy of gods.

Tripod (τρίπους). Any artefact with three legs, but especially a cauldron for cooking which rested on a stand with three legs or had them incorporated into the design; they were valuable objects used as prizes and gifts. The priestess at Delphi would sit on a tripod to give oracles.