



CORE TEACHING LESSONS

LESSON #8 - MYTHOLOGY

Student Objectives and Activities

- Students read the Greek myth, “**In the Beginning**”.
- Students learn the purpose of myths.
- Students sequence important events from the myth into vertical timeline format.

Suggested Teaching Strategies

- Read or tell the myth “**In the Beginning**”.
- Discuss the myth with the students:
 - 1) Review the characters.
 - 2) Define the generations.
 - 3) Point out that history repeated itself with each new generation. How? Why?
- Put, “**What is Mythology?**” on an interactive whiteboard and projection system for the students to see. Read through it together. Then ask the students, what questions about the world are answered by the myth, “**In the Beginning**”? (This myth was how the Greeks explained the creation of the universe, earth, and mankind.)
- Finally, have the students arrange information from the myth into a vertical timeline, showing ten key points in proper sequence. (They may need access to the story for this part, or you can test their memories - but then grade accordingly.)

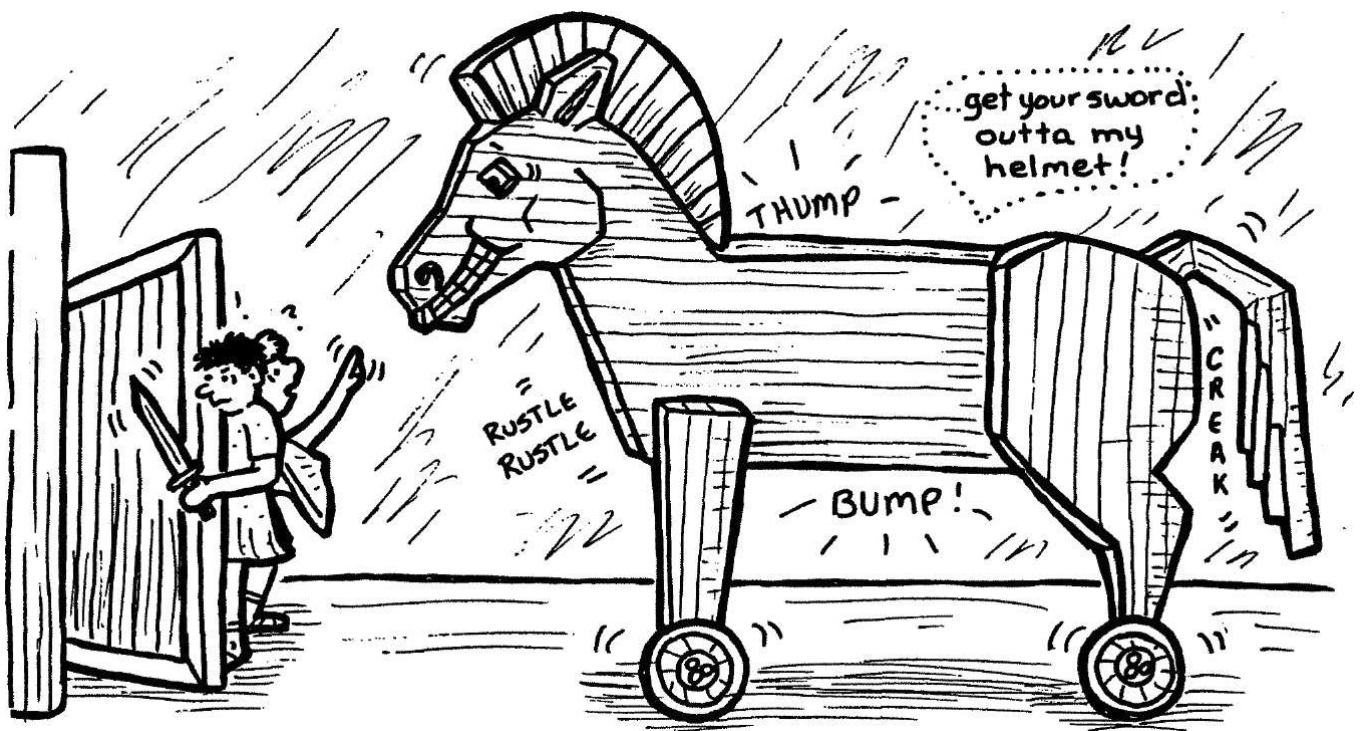
*** Note ***

Refer to Part II - Optional Lesson #9, for an extension of this mythology lesson. It will provide you with information on mythology from around the world.





For ten years, the Greeks were unsuccessful at gaining entrance into the city of Troy. Still, the king was determined to be reunited with his wife. Finally, the Greeks devised a brilliant plan. The army created a huge wooden horse, in which several of their men could hide. Then, they placed the horse in front of the gates of Troy and sailed away. The Trojans were amazed at the size of the horse. As soon as the ships were gone, they opened the gates and claimed their new prize.



Once the Trojans had brought the huge horse into the city and secured the gates again, they celebrated well into the night. When the Trojans finally fell asleep that night, the Greek soldiers crept out of the horse and opened the gates to the city where the rest of the soldiers were waiting. The Greek army launched a surprise attack on the Trojans. After the battle, the city of Troy was burned to the ground. Any survivors were taken as slaves and Helen was returned to the king.

PART III - OPTIONAL LESSONS

LESSONS #1-4 OVERVIEW

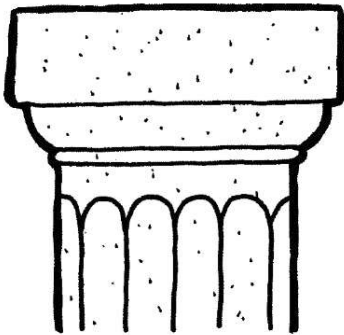


Optional Lesson #1 - Greek Alphabet

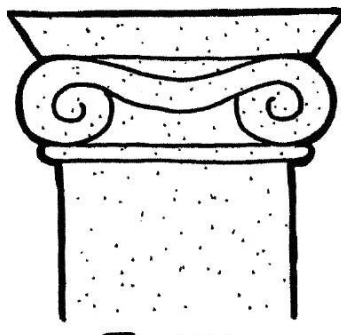
Using the attached handout, introduce your students to the Greek alphabet. Explain that the Greeks borrowed the alphabet from the Phoenicians, and added vowels. There were no spaces between words, nor was there any punctuation. Compare the alphabet with ours today. See if the students can figure out where we got the name “alphabet” (alpha + beta) from. Then, write a message on the board in Greek, and let the students decode it.

Optional Lesson #2 - Greek Architecture

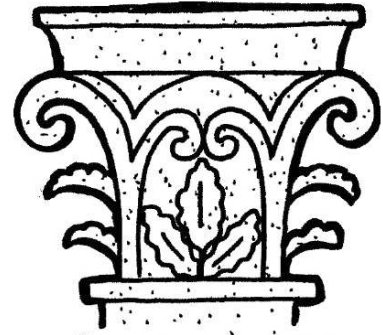
Greek influence is all around us - even in our architecture. Identify the three types of columns: Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian (as seen below). Are there any of these types of columns in your community? Locate them in books or other materials. You'll be surprised just how popular columns are in our modern world.



DORIC



IONIC



CORINTHIAN

Optional Lesson #3 - Greek Foods

Make a meal using Greek foods. There are many books in the library with simple Greek recipes. Remember that they ate a lot of simple foods like fruits and vegetables, bread, and seafood. Everything was eaten with their fingers.

Optional Lesson #4 - Write a Fable

Review *Aesop's Fables* from Part 1, Lesson 4. Assign the students to write a fable. Remind them that a fable teaches a moral or truth. They will need to include the moral of their story at the end.

