



WRITE YOUR OWN VULCAN MYTHOLOGY

This set of activities introduces students to ancient mythology. Vulcan was part of the Roman pantheon of gods. His father was Jupiter and his mother was Juno. In Greek mythology he was known as Hephaestus, and his parents were Zeus and Hera. Vulcan was linked to Athena/Minerva and to Aphrodite/Venus.

In Greek mythology, Hephaestus created Pandora out of water and earth. Vulcan/Hephaestus is considered the original brooding artist, a creative genius. Artists often pick up on this trait in their depictions of the god of the forge.

There are several websites that tell the story of Vulcan/Hephaestus. Here are two links through which students can access to gain a quick understanding of Vulcan's family tree and the stories in which he played a part.

<http://www.pantheon.org/areas/mythology/europe/roman/articles.html>

<http://www.mythweb.com>

Activity 1

For a simple writing activity that helps students understand mythology and who Vulcan is, ask students to write their own myth about the god of the forge. The myth should be sensitive to Vulcan's personal qualities – his craftsmanship, creativity, and outsider status, while explaining some aspect of the natural world or human behavior.

Activity 2

In West African mythology, the god of the forge is known as Ogun. Ogun is honored by artisans for his creative ability, and he is also known for his playful, trickster personality. For a multicultural twist, adapt the writing assignment to the West African version of the deity. More information about Ogun can be found at the following link:

<http://postcolonialweb.org/nigeria/yorubarel.html>