

# Zeus



## Known as:

God of the Sky;  
King of the Gods

## Parents:

Cronus and Rhea

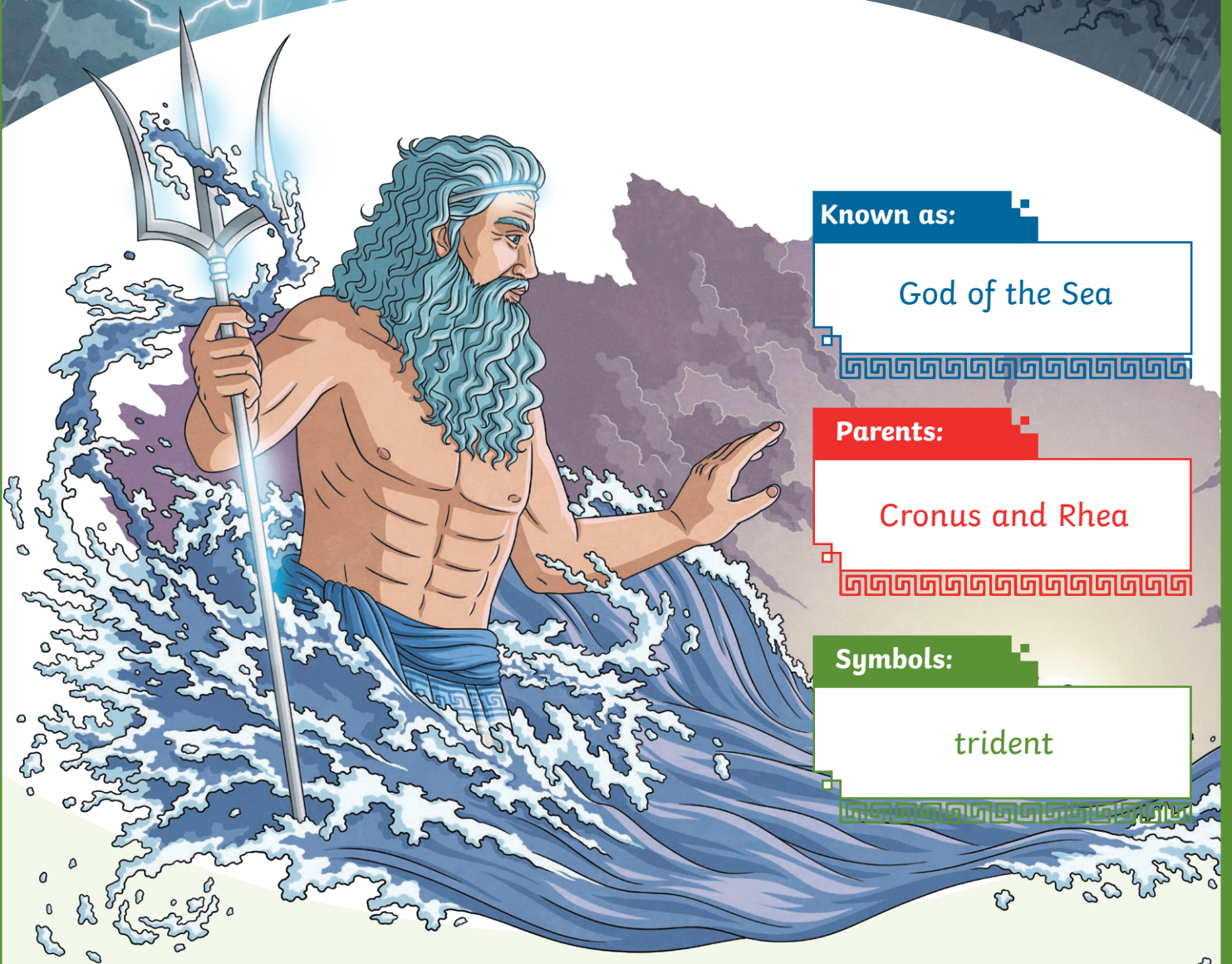
## Symbols:

thunderbolt

Zeus was considered the father and protector of all gods and mortals. It was said that he could control the weather and is usually shown as an older man with a beard, sometimes holding a lightning bolt.

He was a son of the Titans Cronus and Rhea and overthrew his father, the king. After Cronus was defeated, Poseidon, Hades and Zeus argued over who would become the next king. They decided to draw lots over who would have the honour: Zeus became the king.

# Poseidon



## Known as:

God of the Sea

## Parents:

Cronus and Rhea

## Symbols:

trident

The brother of Zeus and Hades, Poseidon became ruler of the seas when their father, Cronus, was overthrown. He was also god of earthquakes and horses. It is thought his name means 'husband of the earth' or 'lord of the earth'.

He is often shown with a trident – a three-pronged spear. By striking the rocks at his feet with his trident, it was said that Poseidon could cause earthquakes and create springs and floodwaters.

# Hades



## Known as:

King of the Underworld;  
God of the Dead



## Parents:

Cronus and Rhea



## Symbols:

helmet, Cerberus the  
three-headed dog



Ruler of the underworld, a place human souls were said to go after death, Hades is the brother of Zeus and Poseidon. His name means 'The Unseen One'. He was known to be a terrifying figure and was therefore not often depicted in Greek mythology. In

images of Hades, he is usually pictured wearing a helmet, known as the Helm of Darkness or Cap of Invisibility. He is also shown with a two-pronged pitchfork or staff with his three-headed dog, Cerberus.

# Athena



## Known as:

Goddess of  
Wisdom and War

## Parents:

Zeus

## Symbols:

owl, shield  
(aegis)

Greek myths say that Athena sprang from Zeus's head, fully grown and wearing armour. She was an admired figure and strongly associated with Athens, the capital city of Greece. The Parthenon, a temple located in the Acropolis of Athens, is dedicated to her.

She is shown either wearing a tunic, known as a chiton, or armour with a Corinthian helmet and shield. The shield often contains an image of a Gorgon's head, symbolising the head of Medusa: the gift she received from Perseus.

# Apollo



## Known as:

God of the  
Sun and Light

## Parents:

Zeus and Leto

## Symbols:

lyre, bow and arrow

Apollo was Greek god of many things, including the sun and light, music and poetry, archery and healing. He is often shown with a lyre, a U-shaped musical instrument similar to a harp,

a bow and arrow and a laurel crown. He is one of the twelve Olympian gods that lived on Mount Olympus. His twin sister is Artemis who was born first and helped to deliver him.

# Artemis



## Known as:

Goddess of the Hunt;  
Goddess of the Moon

## Parents:

Zeus and Leto

## Symbols:

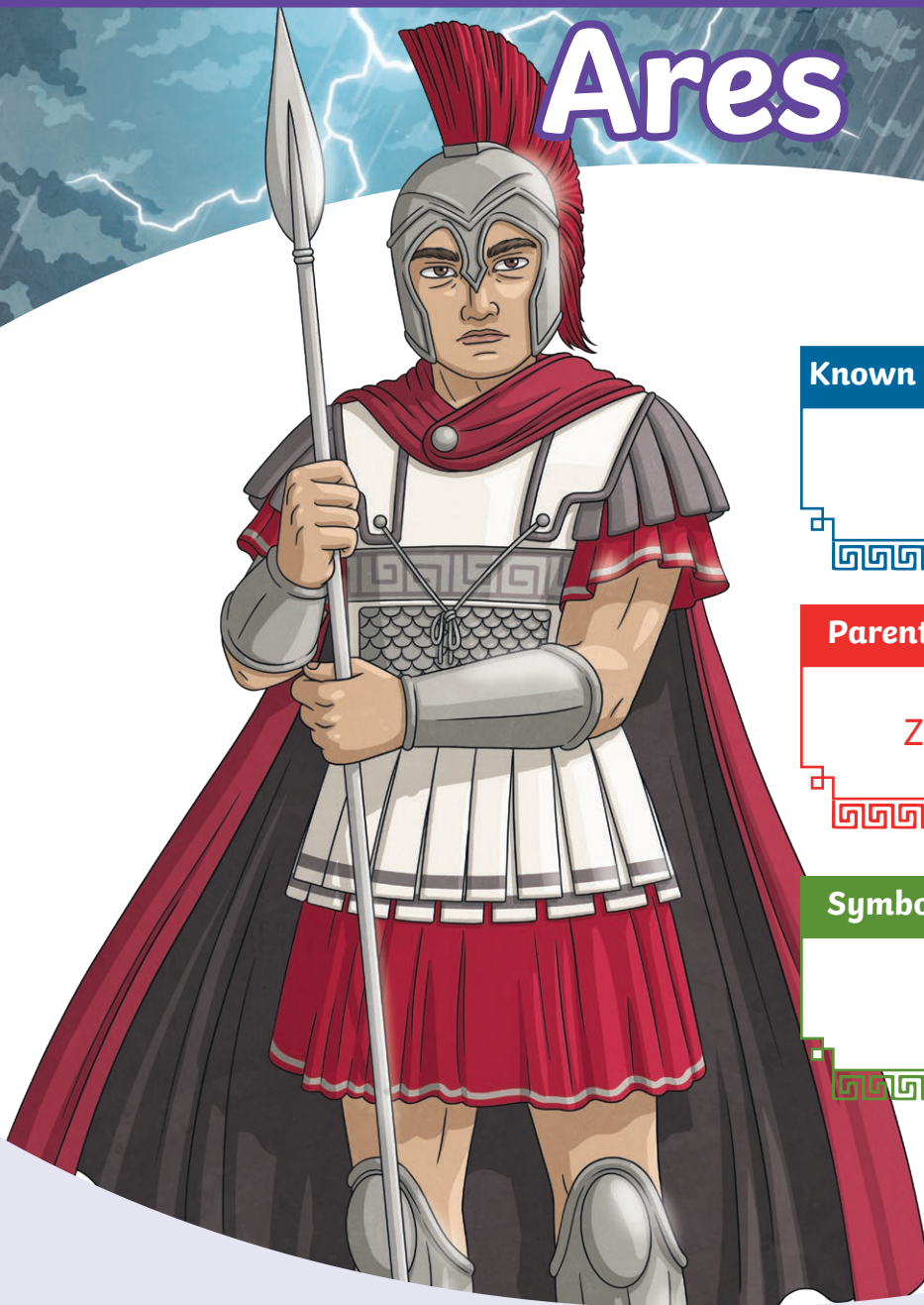
stag, bow and arrow

Twin sister to Apollo, it was said that Artemis helped her mother, the Titaness Leto, deliver her brother Apollo nine days after her birth.

She is shown as a young woman carrying a quiver with arrows and holding a bow. She is also

often pictured with an animal, usually a stag or a doe, or with hunting dogs. As well as being goddess of hunting, Artemis is also goddess of the moon and is therefore sometimes shown wearing a crown with a crescent moon.

# Ares



## Known as:

God of War

## Parents:

Zeus and Hera

## Symbols:

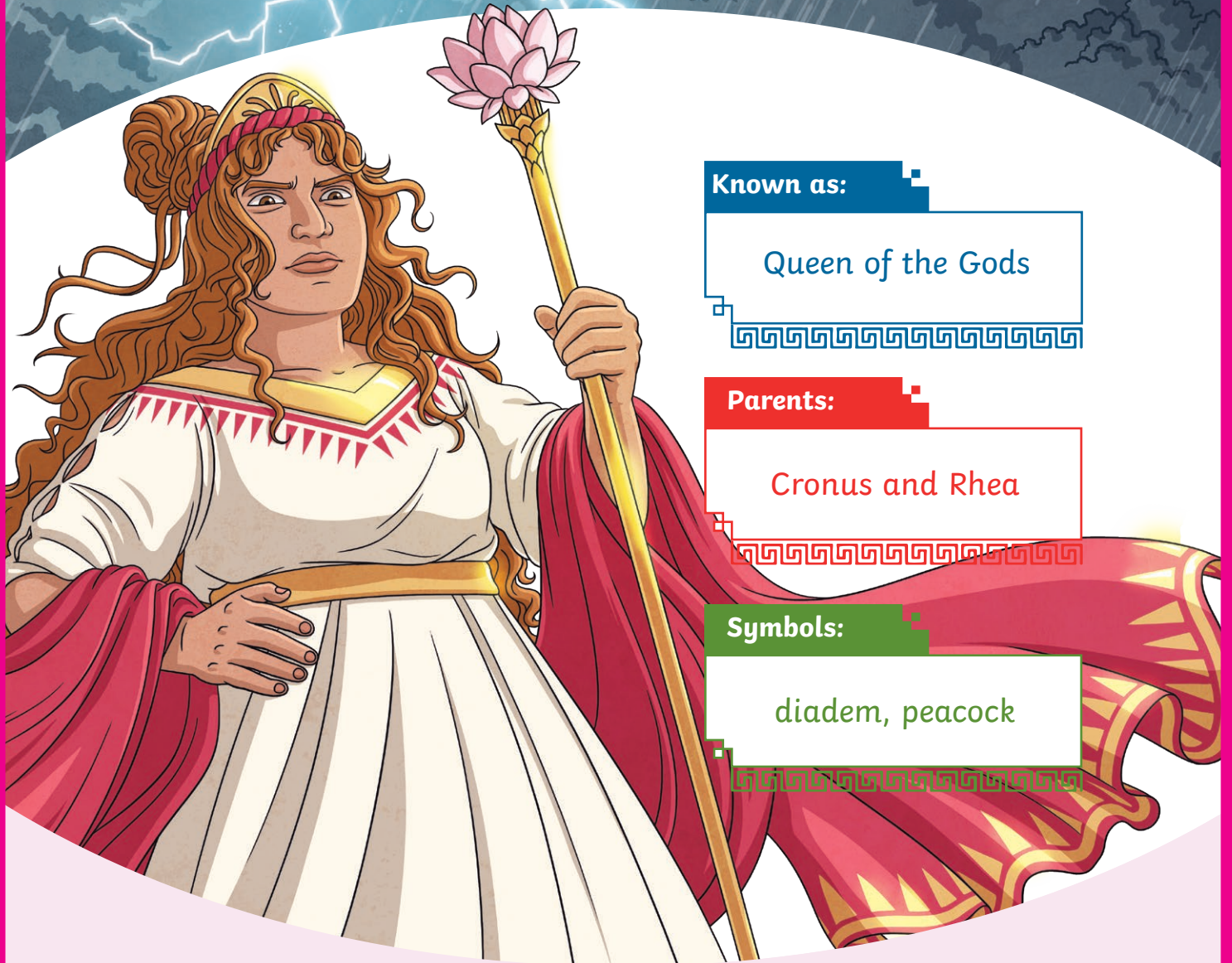
spear

Ares is the Greek god of war; however, unlike the goddess Athena, he was said to represent the violent and brutal aspects of war. His name is an ancient word for war or battle.

He wasn't a popular god and even Zeus, his own father, called him 'the most hateful of gods'.

He is shown with a helmet, a shield, sword or spear and a chariot driven by four horses.

# Hera



## Known as:

Queen of the Gods

## Parents:

Cronus and Rhea

## Symbols:

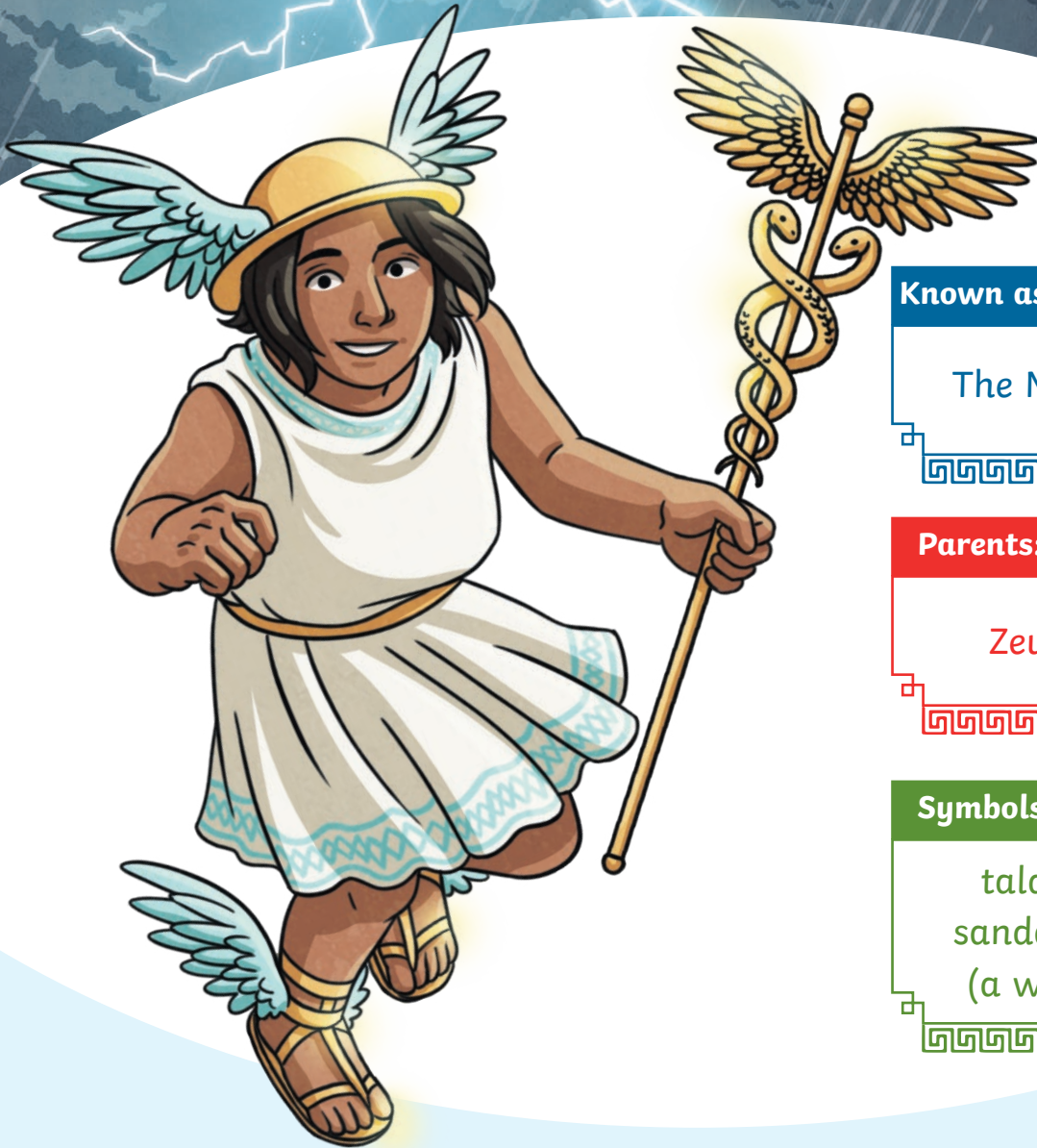
diadem, peacock

The Greek goddess of women, marriage and family, Hera was the wife and also the sister of Zeus. She was known to be vengeful and could be cruel to those that angered her.

She is depicted wearing a royal headband, called a diadem, and carrying a sceptre topped with a pomegranate and a cuckoo. She is also often featured with a peacock.



# Hermes



## Known as:

The Messenger God

## Parents:

Zeus and Maia

## Symbols:

talaria (winged sandals), caduceus (a wand or staff)

In Greek mythology, Hermes was the messenger god. He was the son of Zeus and Maia and known as the 'divine trickster' – he invented the lyre, the U-shaped musical instrument associated with Apollo, and stole his cattle, on the first day of his life.

He is famously pictured wearing winged sandals, known as the Talaria of Mercury, which enabled him to move between the worlds of the mortal and divine.

# Aphrodite

## Known as:

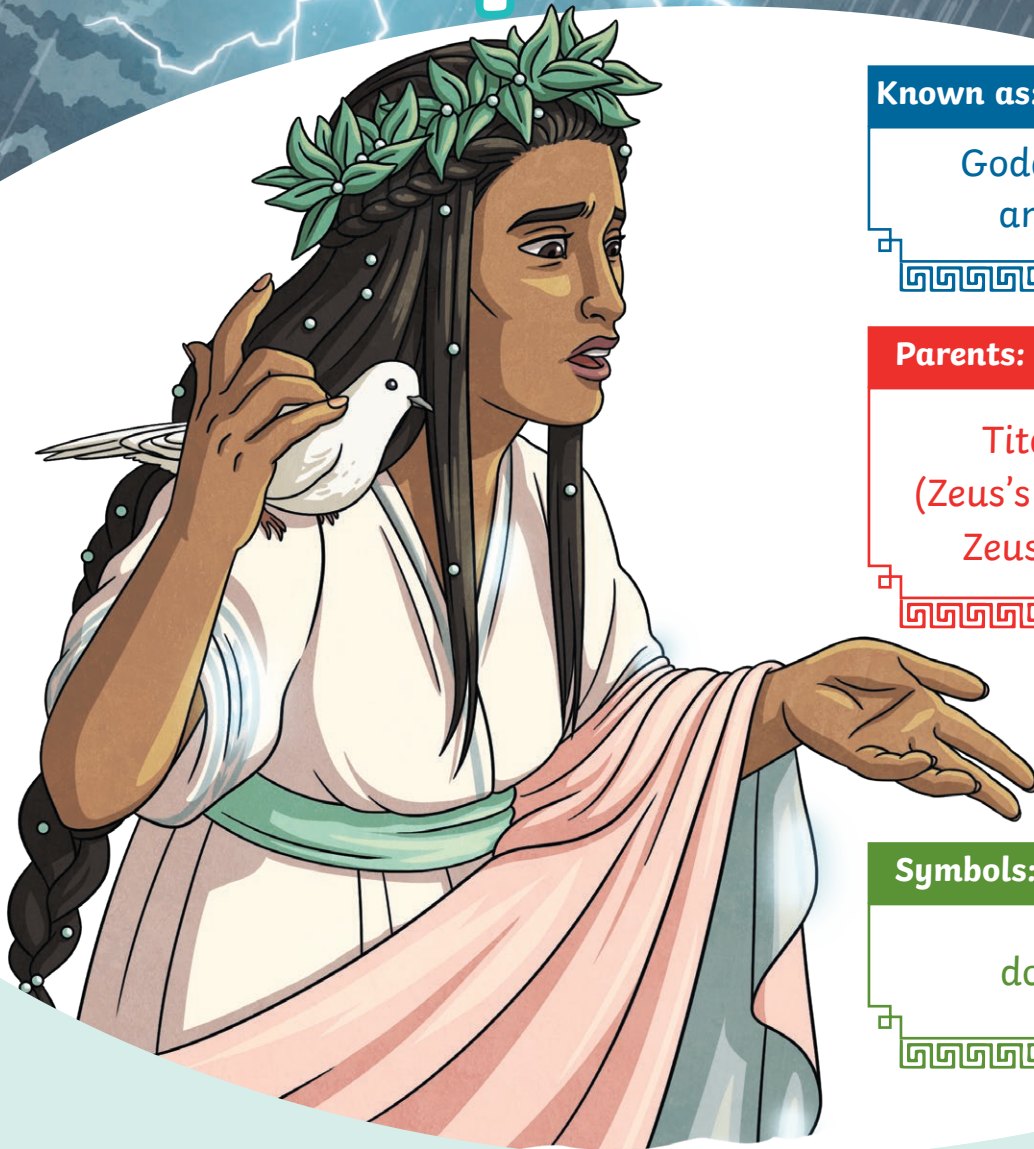
Goddess of Love  
and Beauty

## Parents:

Titan Uranus  
(Zeus's grandfather)/  
Zeus and Dione

## Symbols:

dove, swan



It was said that Aphrodite was born from sea foam near the coast of Cythera. She was very beautiful and often depicted with a dove and accompanied by Eros, the winged god of love. She rode a flying chariot that was pulled by sparrows.

There is some mystery about who her parents were: some say she was the daughter of Uranus, the grandfather of Zeus. Others say she was actually the daughter of Zeus and the Titaness Dione.