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Lesson 2  
GREEK, ROMAN, AND LITERATURE WORDS  
Greek Mythology: Pandora's Box

Myths and legends are among the most ancient forms of literature. These stories of gods, goddesses, mortals, and heroes were created by almost every civilization. They were passed down by poets, storytellers, and musicians in order to entertain and instruct. Myths answer universal questions such as these: *Why are there seasons? and How did the world begin?* Some Greek myths describe the mischief of gods and goddesses. Read on to find out how the ancient Greeks explained the evils of their world.

**Pandora's Box**

Zeus, king of gods, was angry. The humans had learned about fire! It was a gift that Zeus had intended for the gods alone. Zeus decided that Pandora, the first mortal woman, would punish the upstart humans. Before she was sent to earth, all the gods and goddesses gave Pandora gifts. Aphrodite gave her beauty. Apollo gave her music. Athena gave her wisdom. Zeus gave her curiosity. Then he handed Pandora a golden box. "Pandora," Zeus warned, "you mustn't open this!"

On earth, Pandora kept her box on a high shelf. In time, however, her



curiosity won out. "I'll take just one little peek!" she exclaimed.

When Pandora lifted the lid, terrible things flew out. Some had wings. Some had fangs. These creatures—including envy, greed, sickness, and sorrow—swirled away to every corner of the earth. Only one new being, called hope, remained behind. Hope was left to help humans fight off the evils that had escaped.

**WORD SEARCH**

1. What five-letter plural noun in the reading means "stories handed down through the years, usually meant to explain how something came to be?" \_\_\_\_\_

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[Mythology Lesson 35 Handout 67 Answers](#)