

Who was Apollo?

Read the following information about Apollo and answer the comprehension questions.

Who was Apollo?

The son of Zeus and Leto, and the twin brother of Artemis.

Apollo was the god of music (principally the lyre – similar to a harp)



He is considered the ideal of manly beauty, so that a very handsome man might be called an "Apollo". He is also the god of poetry.

He was a mortal medical healer who was so successful that he was reputed to have the ability to bring the dead back to life.

The ancient Greeks believed that it was not wise to anger the gods. They built temples all over ancient Greece. *Each* temple, no matter how elaborate, honored only *one* god. The major gods had more than one temple built in their honor.



Nearly everyone was fond of Apollo. He was the god of music, reason, and light. Apollo's chariot brought up the sun each day. Apollo had other powers. One was a very special skill - Apollo could see the future. He had the gift of prophecy. Many people in ancient Greece brought gifts to Apollo, and asked for advice in exchange. Apollo liked the attention and the gifts. It was all very nice, but it was also exhausting.

One day, Apollo decided that what he needed was an Oracle, a wise woman to speak for him. In Ancient Greece, an Oracle was a person who could predict and interpret the future.



Apollo used his magic to create an Oracle. Now, he needed somewhere for her to live. He found a perfect location, a place called Crista but there was a problem...

Crista was defended by a fearsome serpent called Python. This monster was not happy about giving up his home!

Apollo battled Python and defeated him by firing an arrow through his forehead. However, Python had proven himself to be a valiant opponent, so Apollo named his Oracle in his honour – Pythia.

Now Apollo needed some Priests to worship at his temple and look after Pythia. However, finding priests proved to be tricky, so Apollo came up with a plan.

He transformed himself into a dolphin and swam alongside a ship sailing from Crete. Then he jumped up on to the ship and steered it off towards Crista. He told the sailors that they would be given new jobs as Priests and, as he had taken the form of a dolphin, he renamed Crista, Delphi.

Questions

1. Who was Apollo's mother and father?

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2. What was Apollo the god of?

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3. Why did the ancient Greeks build temples?

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4. Find and copy the word that means a deep respect.

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5. What was Apollo's special skill?

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6. Why do you think Apollo needed an oracle?

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7. What was the problem Apollo had when he created his Oracle?

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8. What honour did Apollo pay the serpent and why?

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9. Why did Apollo re-name Crisa to Delphi?

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