

# Who was Apollo?

Read the following information about Apollo and answer the comprehension questions on the next page.

## Who was Apollo?



Apollo was the son of Zeus and Leto. He was the twin brother of Artemis.

He was the god of music and poetry.

He is thought to be very handsome.

He had the power to bring the dead back to life because he was a medical healer.

The ancient Greeks believed that they should not upset the gods so they built temples to worship them in. Each temple only worshipped one god. But, each god could have more than one temple built in his honour.



Everyone loved Apollo. His chariot brought the sun up each day. He also had the special skill of seeing into the future. People gave gifts to Apollo in the hope they could ask for advice.

Apollo loved the attention and gifts but he found it extremely tiring.



One day, Apollo realised he needed an Oracle (a wise woman that could predict the future) to give the advice for him. He used his magic to create her and found a place for her to live in Crista. But, there was a problem...



A fearsome serpent called Python lived there and was not happy in giving up his home. Apollo killed him by firing an arrow into his

forehead. The serpent had been so strong, Apollo was impressed and named his oracle, Pythia after it.

Now Apollo needed some priests to look after Pythia but couldn't find any.

He had a plan. He changed into a dolphin and swam alongside a ship sailing from Crete. He steered it towards Crista.

The sailors were given new jobs as priests and he renamed Crista as Delphi (after the dolphin he had changed into).



## Questions

1. Who was Apollo's mother and father?

.....**Leto and Zeus**.....

2. What was Apollo the god of?

**the lyre (music) , reason and light. He was also the god of poetry.**

3. Why did the ancient Greeks build temples?

**To not anger the gods - to keep them happy**

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

.....**honour**.....

5. What was Apollo's special skill?

**He could see the future**

6. Why do you think Apollo needed an oracle?

**He needed someone to do the hard work for him because it was too exhausting.**

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

**The beautiful place that Apollo found for her to live was guarded by a fearsome serpent, so nobody could visit. The serpent did not want to give up his home.**

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

**He named his oracle Pythia - after python (the serpent) because he had fought bravely and competitively**

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

**In order to get the priests to Crisa, he had to change into a dolphin and steer a group of sailors to it. They changed roles and because he was a dolphin, they named it Delphi.**