



GREEK ORTHODOX
ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ
ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΙΑ ΔΗΜΟΣΙΑΣ ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΑΣ
ΚΑΙ ΑΠΟΔΙΟΧΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΣΜΟΥ

SFU

STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION
CENTRE FOR HELLENIC STUDIES

SUPPORTED BY

ΙΣΝ/SNF

ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΝΙΑΡΧΟΣ
STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION



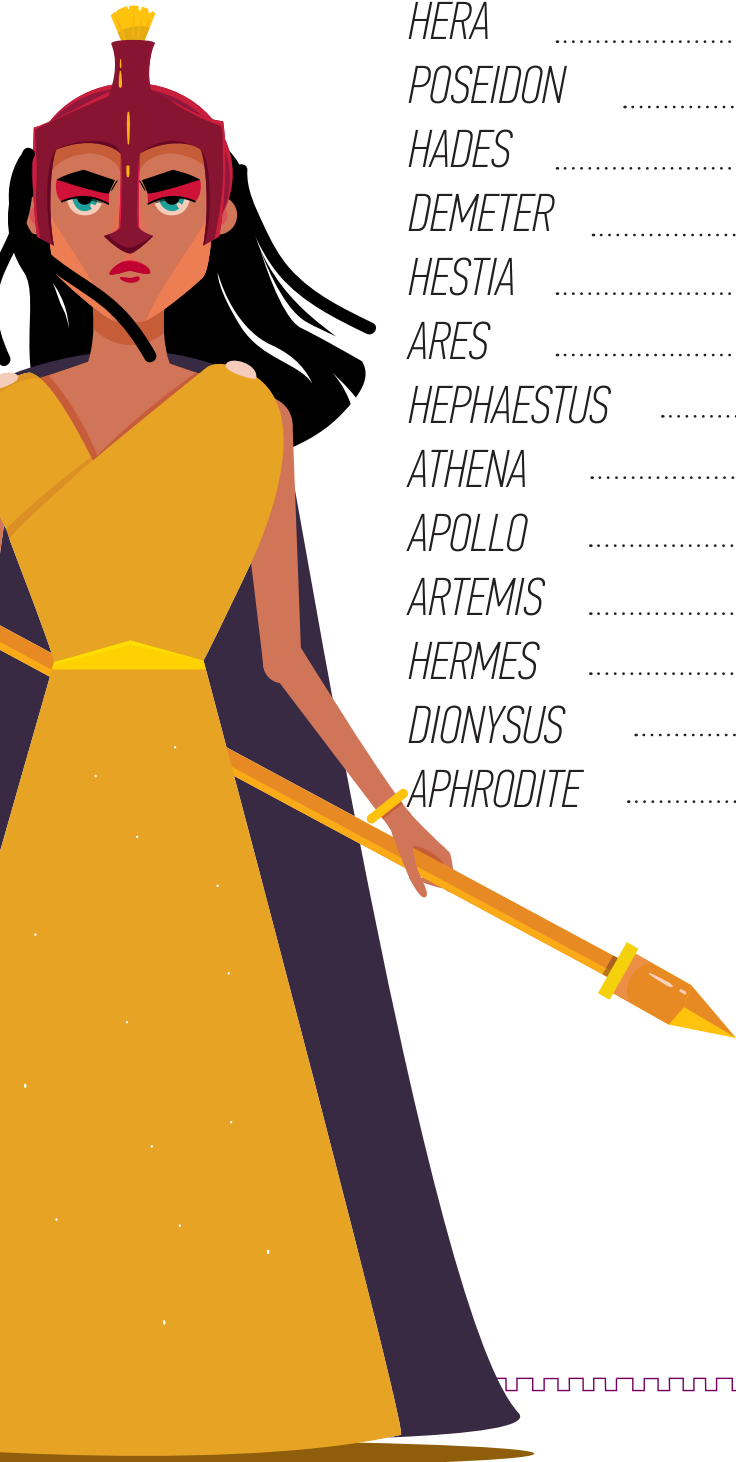
GREEK ORTHODOX
ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

THE OLYMPIANS

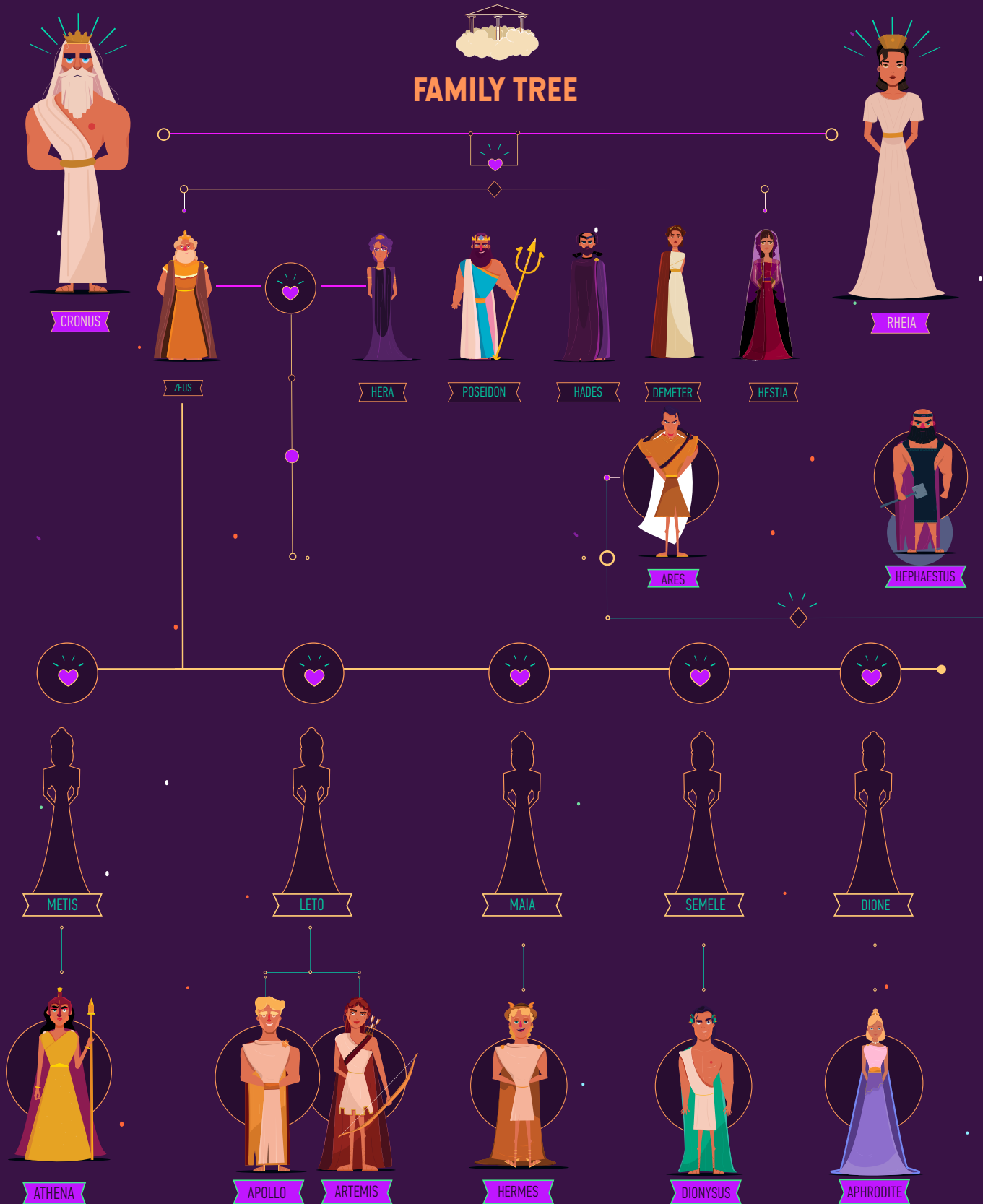


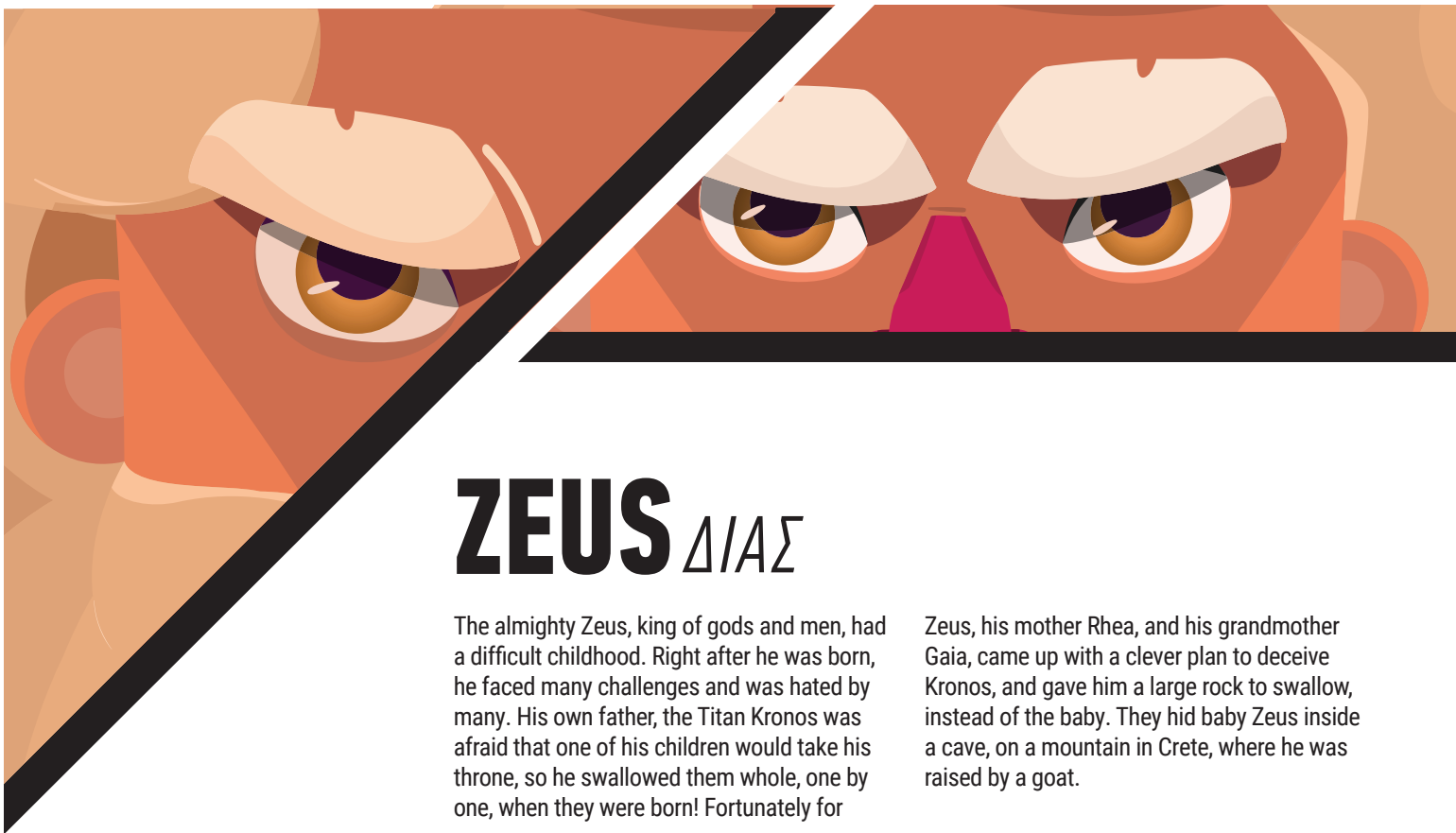
CONTENTS

<i>ZEUS</i>	4-5
<i>HERA</i>	6-7
<i>POSEIDON</i>	7-8
<i>HADES</i>	9-10
<i>DEMETER</i>	11-12
<i>HESTIA</i>	13-14
<i>ARES</i>	15-16
<i>HEPHAESTUS</i>	17-18
<i>ATHENA</i>	19-20
<i>APOLLO</i>	21-22
<i>ARTEMIS</i>	23-24
<i>HERMES</i>	25-26
<i>DIONYSUS</i>	27-28
<i>APHRODITE</i>	29-30



FAMILY TREE





ZEUS ΔΙΑΣ

The almighty Zeus, king of gods and men, had a difficult childhood. Right after he was born, he faced many challenges and was hated by many. His own father, the Titan Kronos was afraid that one of his children would take his throne, so he swallowed them whole, one by one, when they were born! Fortunately for

Zeus, his mother Rhea, and his grandmother Gaia, came up with a clever plan to deceive Kronos, and gave him a large rock to swallow, instead of the baby. They hid baby Zeus inside a cave, on a mountain in Crete, where he was raised by a goat.



When Zeus reached adulthood, he fought and defeated his father, and saved all his brothers and sisters, who came out of Kronos' belly fully



grown! With their help, he defeated the Titans and the Giants, and saved everyone that was wronged by them in the past. Afterwards, Zeus

was recognized as the greatest of all the gods, and he ruled the whole world alongside his two brothers, Poseidon and Hades.



WHENEVER ZEUS FELL IN LOVE WITH A MORTAL WOMAN HE TRANSFORMED INTO AN ANIMAL SO THAT HE COULD APPROACH THEM WITHOUT SCARING THEM.

His wife was the goddess Hera, and he had many children with her, all of them mighty gods. All of his children, along with his brothers and sisters, lived on top of Mount Olympus. Zeus had a weak spot for beautiful women, mortal or immortal, and he had children with many of them. Because of this, Zeus was not only the father of gods, but also of many heroes and whole nations, making him truly the father of all mankind!

ZEUS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING JUSTICE TO THE WORLD.



THE KING OF THE GODS

WEATHER *ΚΑΙΡΟΣ*

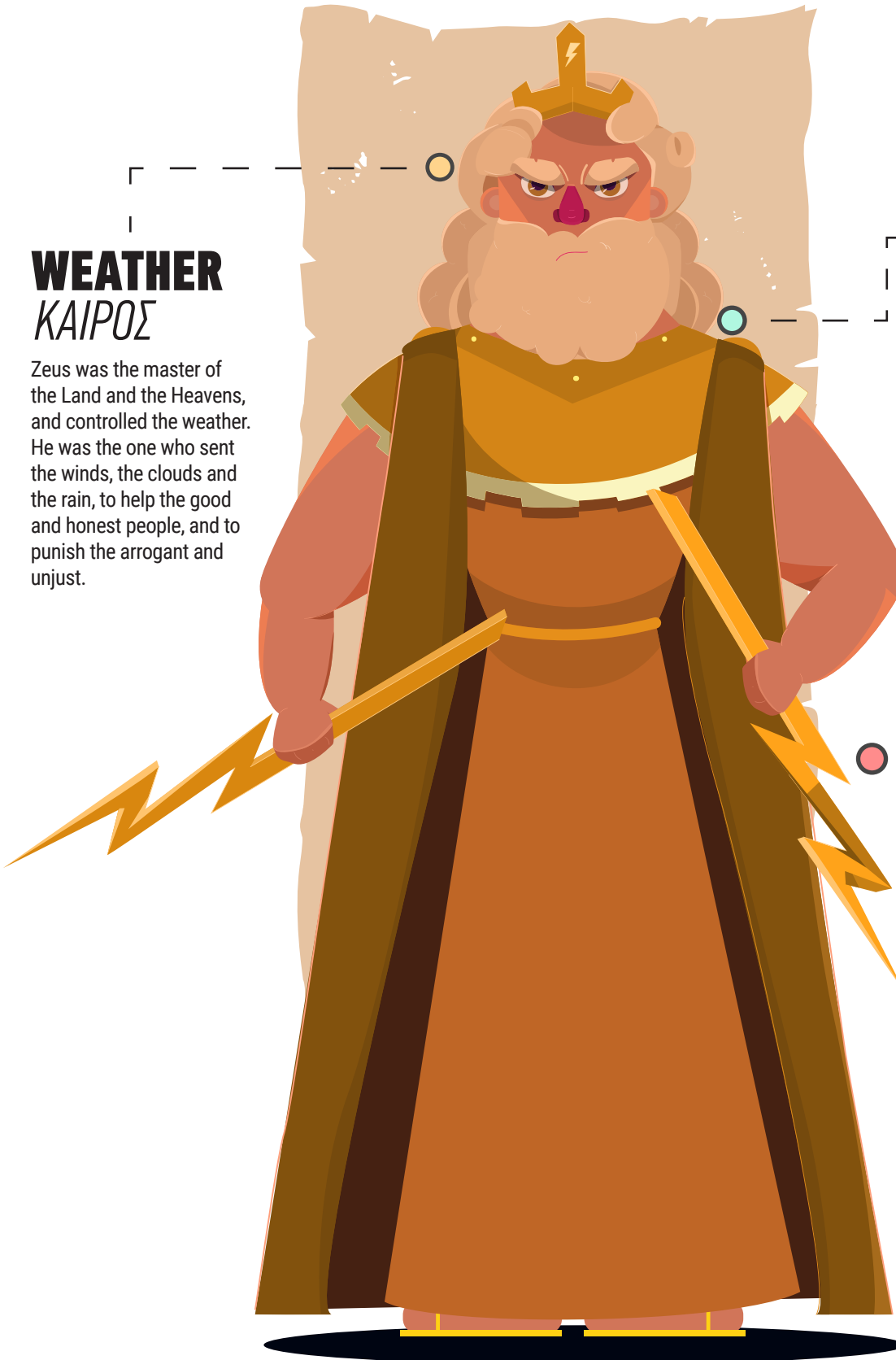
Zeus was the master of the Land and the Heavens, and controlled the weather. He was the one who sent the winds, the clouds and the rain, to help the good and honest people, and to punish the arrogant and unjust.

SKY *ΟΥΡΑΝΟΣ*

Zeus was also the guardian of travellers, people that plead with the gods and fugitives, as well as anyone under oath. Whenever someone harmed people under his protection, they immediately felt the god's wrath!

LIGHTNING *ΚΕΡΑΥΝΟΣ*

His weapon was the lightning bolt, which he used to bring justice to the world.





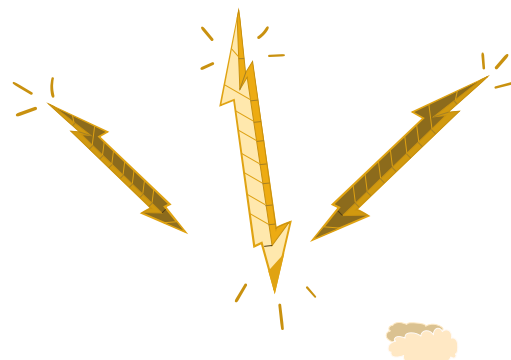
HERA *HPA*

When Kronos was king, even his own children were not safe from him. The moment they were born he would swallow them because he was afraid that one of them would take the throne from him one day! Kronos and Rhea had three sons and the three daughters, but only Zeus was lucky enough to escape. All the other children, including Hera, ended up in their father's belly!

When Zeus grew up, he rebelled against his father, saved his brothers and sisters and took his father's throne. After that, he wanted to

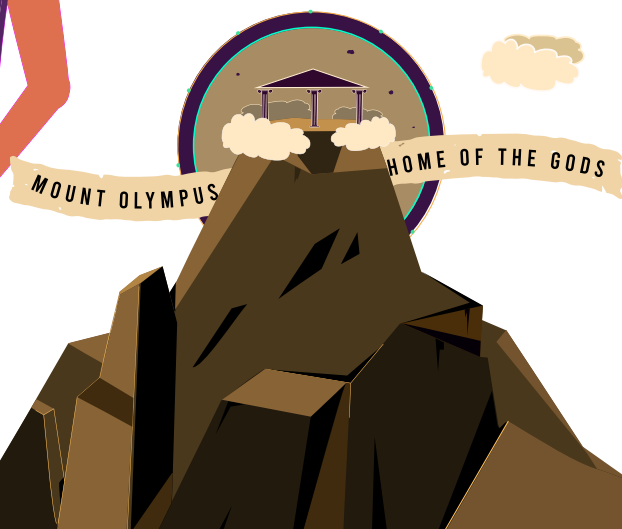
marry Hera but the goddess avoided him. The almighty Zeus didn't give up. Once, when Hera was alone on a mountain, he made a thunderstorm and transformed into a small cuckoo bird. He then went to Hera and pretended to be frightened by the storm. Hera took pity on the little bird and protected it in her arms. Zeus then transformed into his regular form and managed to win her affections. After that, Zeus and Hera were married.

HER LIFE WITH ZEUS, HOWEVER, WAS FAR FROM EASY. THEY QUARRELLED ALL THE TIME ON OLYMPUS. THE REASON WAS ALWAYS THE SAME: ZEUS WAS SO EASILY MOVED BY THE BEAUTY OF OTHER WOMEN AND HE COULDN'T RESTRAIN HIMSELF.



FROM THEN ON, HERA WAS THE QUEEN OF OLYMPUS

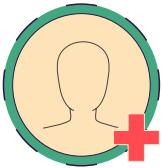
the mother of all the gods and a good and kind wife. She was very generous with the people who honored and respected her. She was the protector of women, as well as those in need. She raised not only her own children, but also the children of other gods, whom she greatly respected. She raised Thetis, for example, like her own daughter. When the time came, she arranged her wedding and she helped her son, the legendary Achilles, to build his reputation as a great warrior.



THE QUEEN OF THE GODS

FAMILY ΟΙΚΟΓΕΝΕΙΑ

Hera was the Queen of Olympus, the mother of all the gods and a good and kind wife.



MARRIAGE

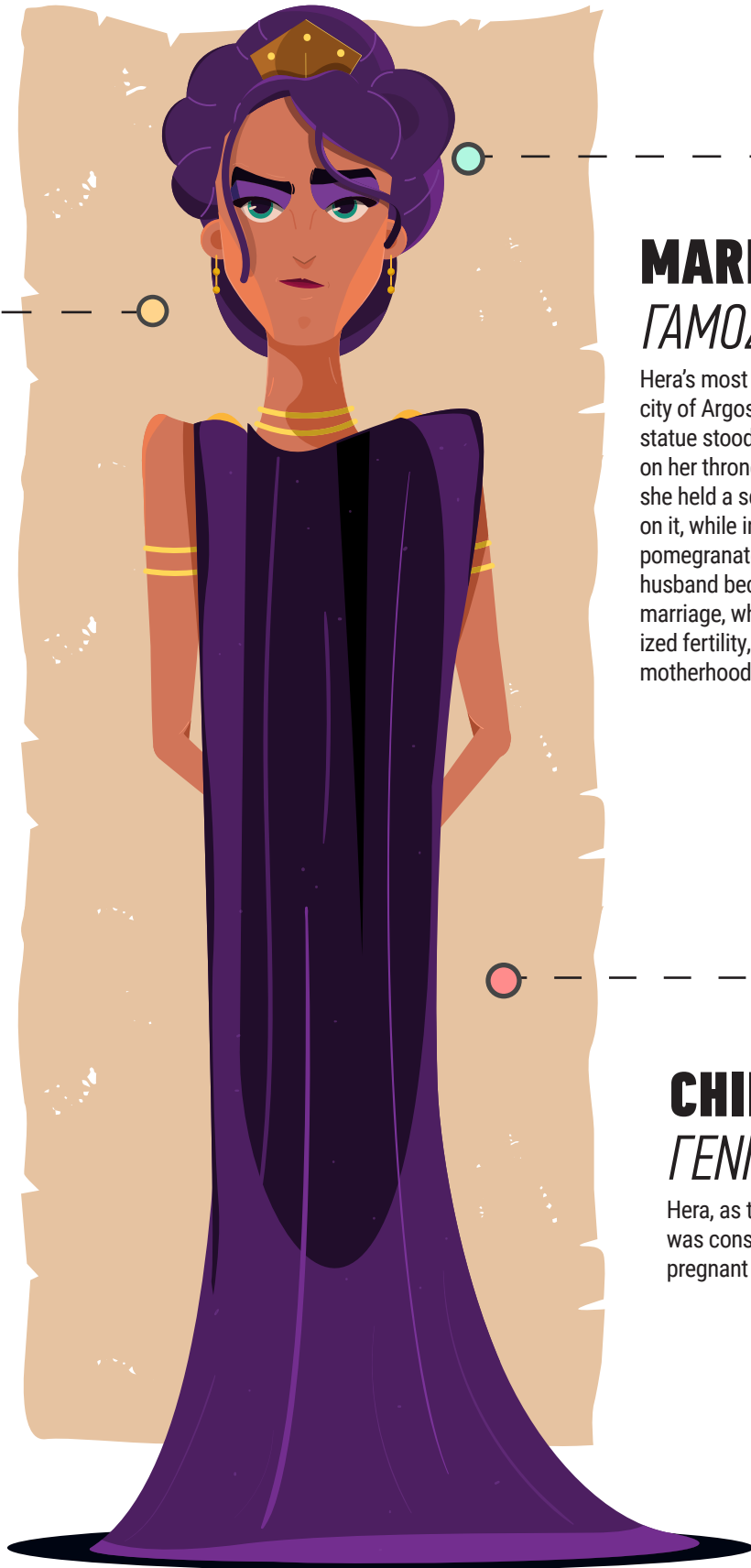
ΓΑΜΟΣ

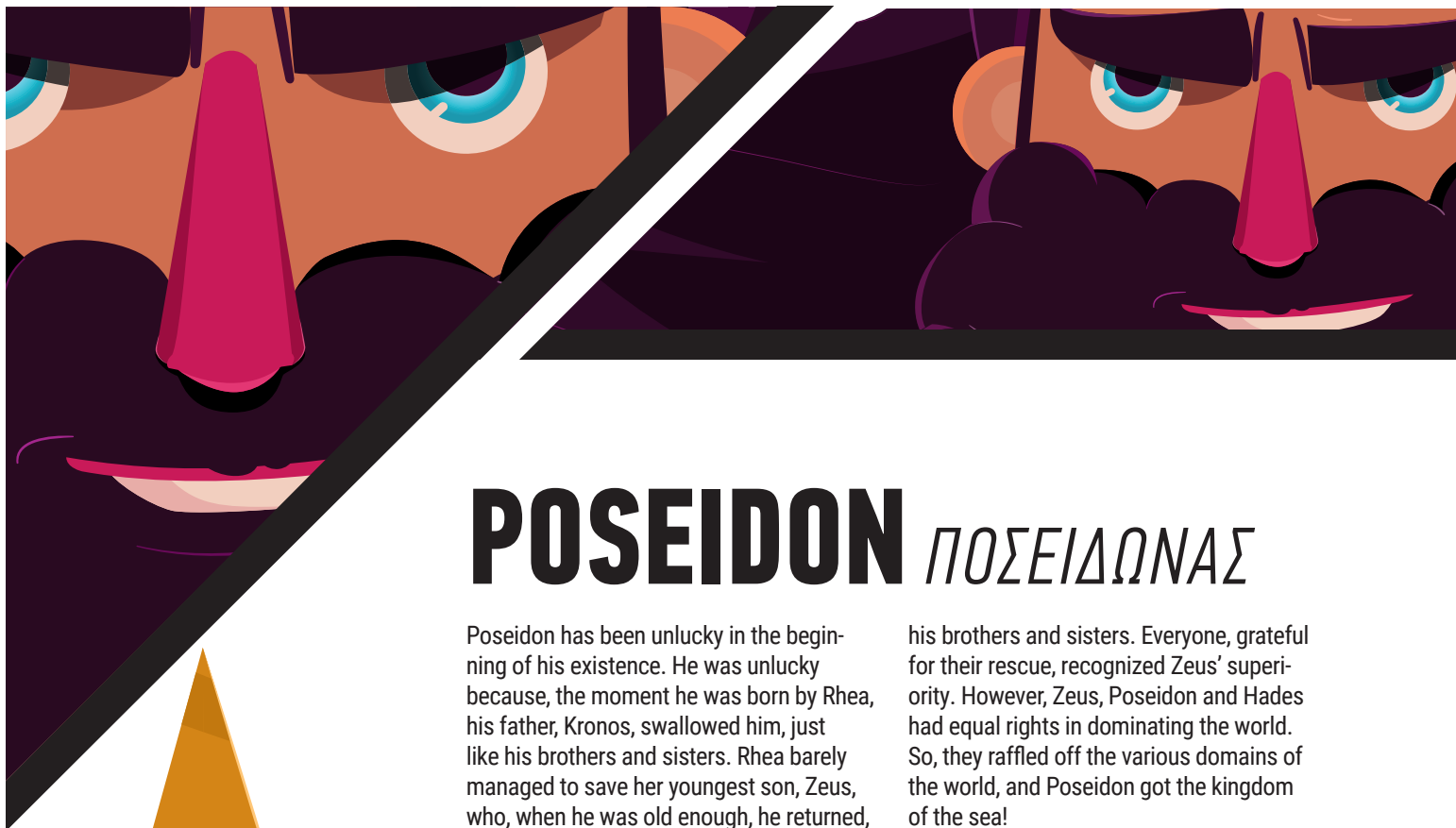
Hera's most important temple was in the city of Argos, where her gold and ivory statue stood. The statue depicted Hera on her throne like a queen. In one hand she held a scepter with a cuckoo bird on it, while in the other hand she held a pomegranate. The cuckoo symbolized her husband because she was the goddess of marriage, while the pomegranate symbolized fertility, as Hera is the goddess of motherhood.

CHILDBIRTH

ΓΕΝΝΗΣΗ

Hera, as the goddess of childbirth, was considered the guardian of pregnant women and babies.





POSEIDON *ΠΟΣΕΙΔΩΝΑΣ*

Poseidon has been unlucky in the beginning of his existence. He was unlucky because, the moment he was born by Rhea, his father, Kronos, swallowed him, just like his brothers and sisters. Rhea barely managed to save her youngest son, Zeus, who, when he was old enough, he returned, he defeated his father and he set free all

his brothers and sisters. Everyone, grateful for their rescue, recognized Zeus' superiority. However, Zeus, Poseidon and Hades had equal rights in dominating the world. So, they raffled off the various domains of the world, and Poseidon got the kingdom of the sea!

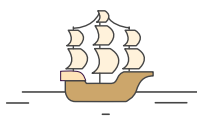
AS THE KING OF THE SEA

Poseidon had to choose a wife of noble birth. So, he chose to marry one of the Nereids, Amphitrite, mother of the fish, the whales and the dolphins. When he approached her, though, she was frightened and she hid in the depths of the ocean. Poseidon didn't give up; he sent all his sea friends to look for her. At last, the dolphin managed to find her and persuade her to marry Poseidon. From then on, the dolphin is Poseidon's best friend and always accompanies him, when he rides his golden chariot!

IF SOMEONE INSULTED OR ANGERED HIM THEN... WOE TO THEM! WITH HIS TRIDENT HE MADE HUGE WAVES, HE CREATED STORMS AND HE SUNK THE SHIPS, TO EXACT HIS REVENGE.



Everybody wanted Poseidon by their side. He was the one that could calm the seas, with the help of his trident, and create safe sea passages for the sailors and the fishermen.



THE MASTER OF THE SEA

HORSES

ΑΛΟΓΑ

According to the myth, one time Poseidon hit a rock with his trident and from the crack a horse came out, the first of its kind. From then on, the horse became the god's favourite animal and he had four of them to pull his golden chariot above the waves

EARTHQUAKES

ΣΕΙΣΜΟΙ

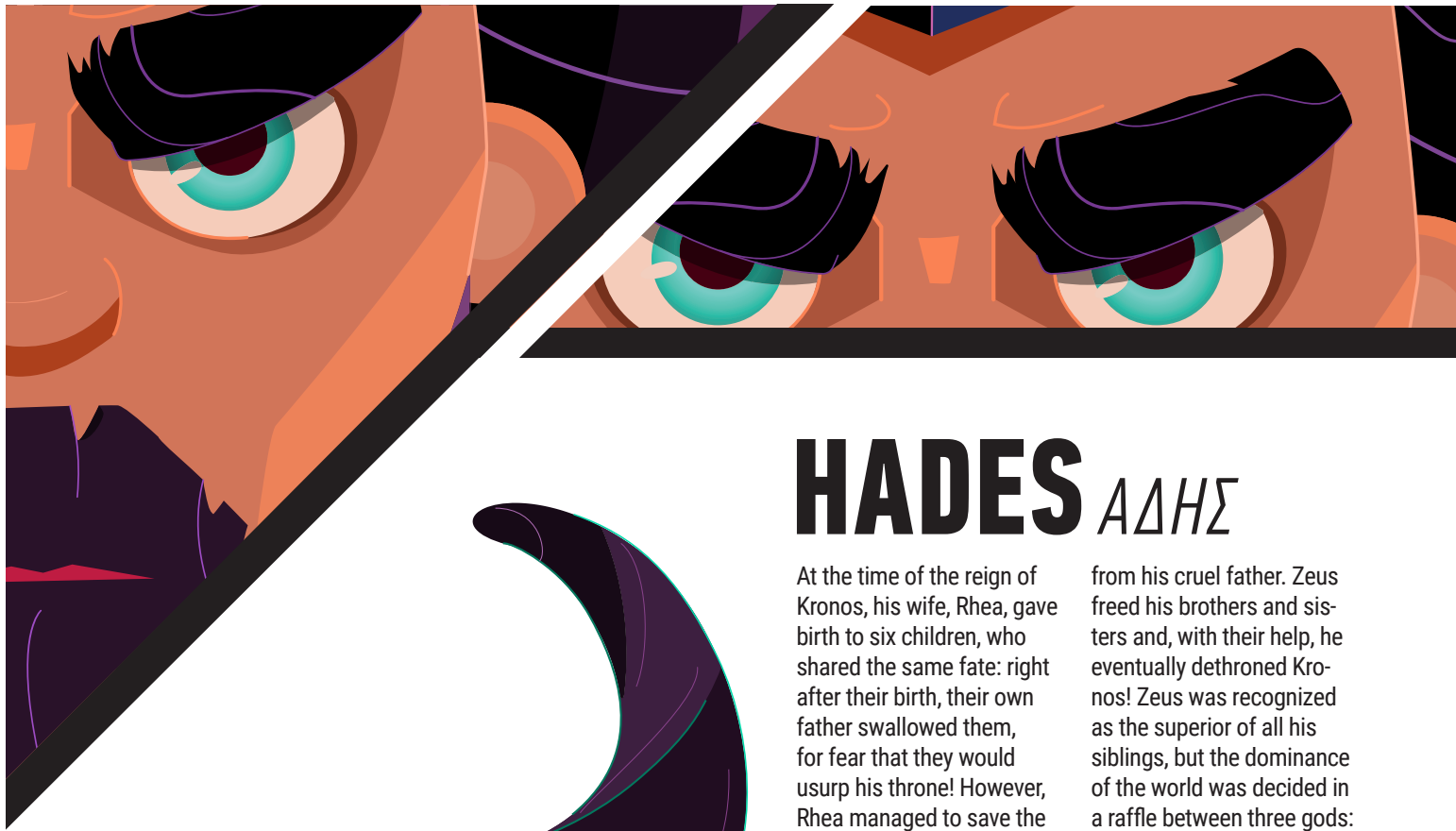
There is a legend about the Titanomachy (War of the Titans), when Poseidon cut a piece from the island of Kos and threw it towards a giant. The giant was buried underneath this piece, and that's how the island Nisyros was formed in south Aegean!

FLOODS

ΠΛΗΜΜΥΡΕΣ

He was also honoured, because he was the one that made the plains fertile, creating rivers and lakes which irrigated the fields with their fresh water.





HADES $\Lambda\Delta\text{H}\Sigma$

At the time of the reign of Kronos, his wife, Rhea, gave birth to six children, who shared the same fate: right after their birth, their own father swallowed them, for fear that they would usurp his throne! However, Rhea managed to save the youngest one, Zeus, who managed to exact revenge

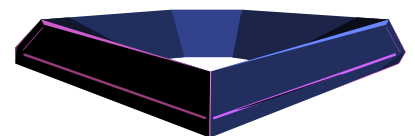
from his cruel father. Zeus freed his brothers and sisters and, with their help, he eventually dethroned Kronos! Zeus was recognized as the superior of all his siblings, but the dominance of the world was decided in a raffle between three gods: Zeus, Poseidon and Hades.

**HADES BECAME
MASTER OF THE
UNDERWORLD.**

THE KINGDOM OF HADES...

Was divided into three different parts. Firstly, all the different souls were wandering meadows with asphodels, flowers which were considered to be the food of the dead, and drank water from the spring Lethe. Then, they reached the court of Hades' palace, where they met the three Judges of the Underworld: King Minos, Radamanthes and Aeacus. They exacted judgement on every soul and decided where in the underworld would be sent. If they have lived an evil life, full of lies and sins, their souls ended up in Tartarus, condemned to everlasting torture. If, on the other hand, they lived exemplary lives, full of good and honest deeds, then they would be admitted in Elysium, where they would be honored like heroes!

**HADES' HELMET WAS A GIFT FROM
THE CYCLOPS. WHEN HE PUT IT ON, HE
BECAME INVISIBLE.**



THE KING OF THE UNDERWORLD

DEATH

ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ

Hades became master of the Underworld. This kingdom agreed with his personality, as, contrary to his brothers, he was cruel, very strict and without emotions.

RICHES

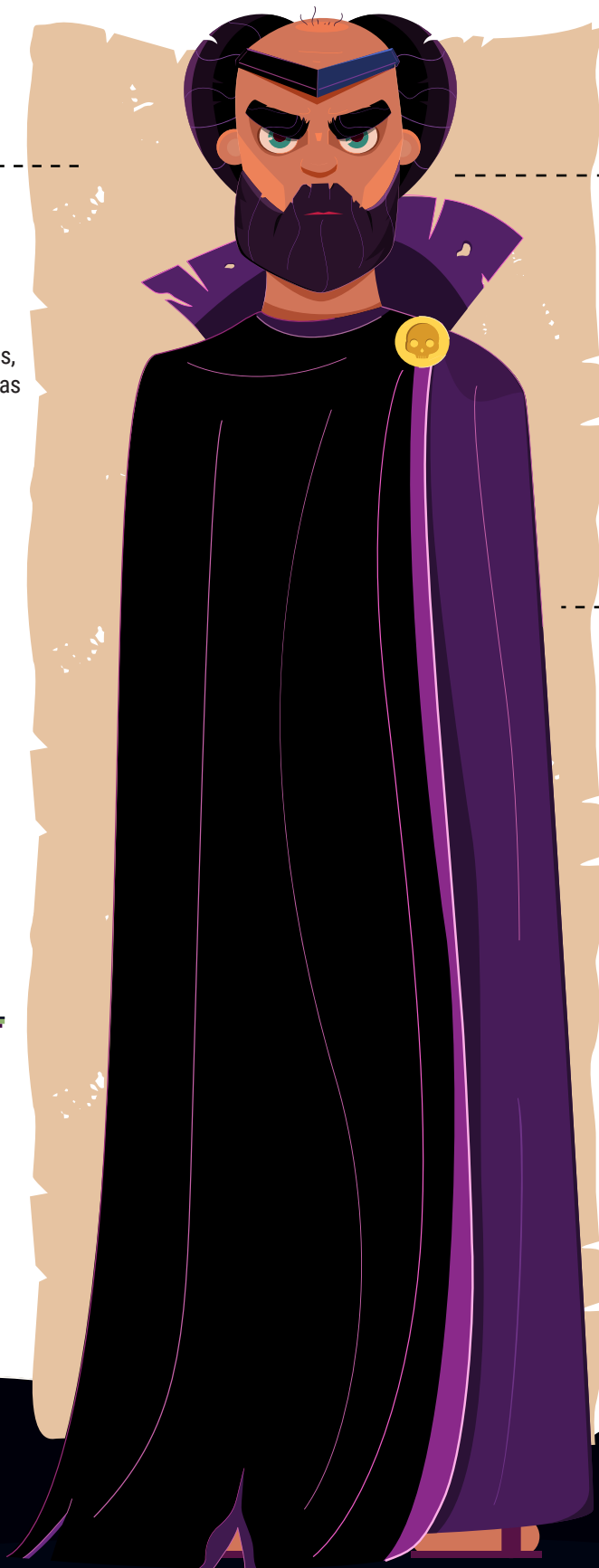
ΠΛΟΥΤΗ

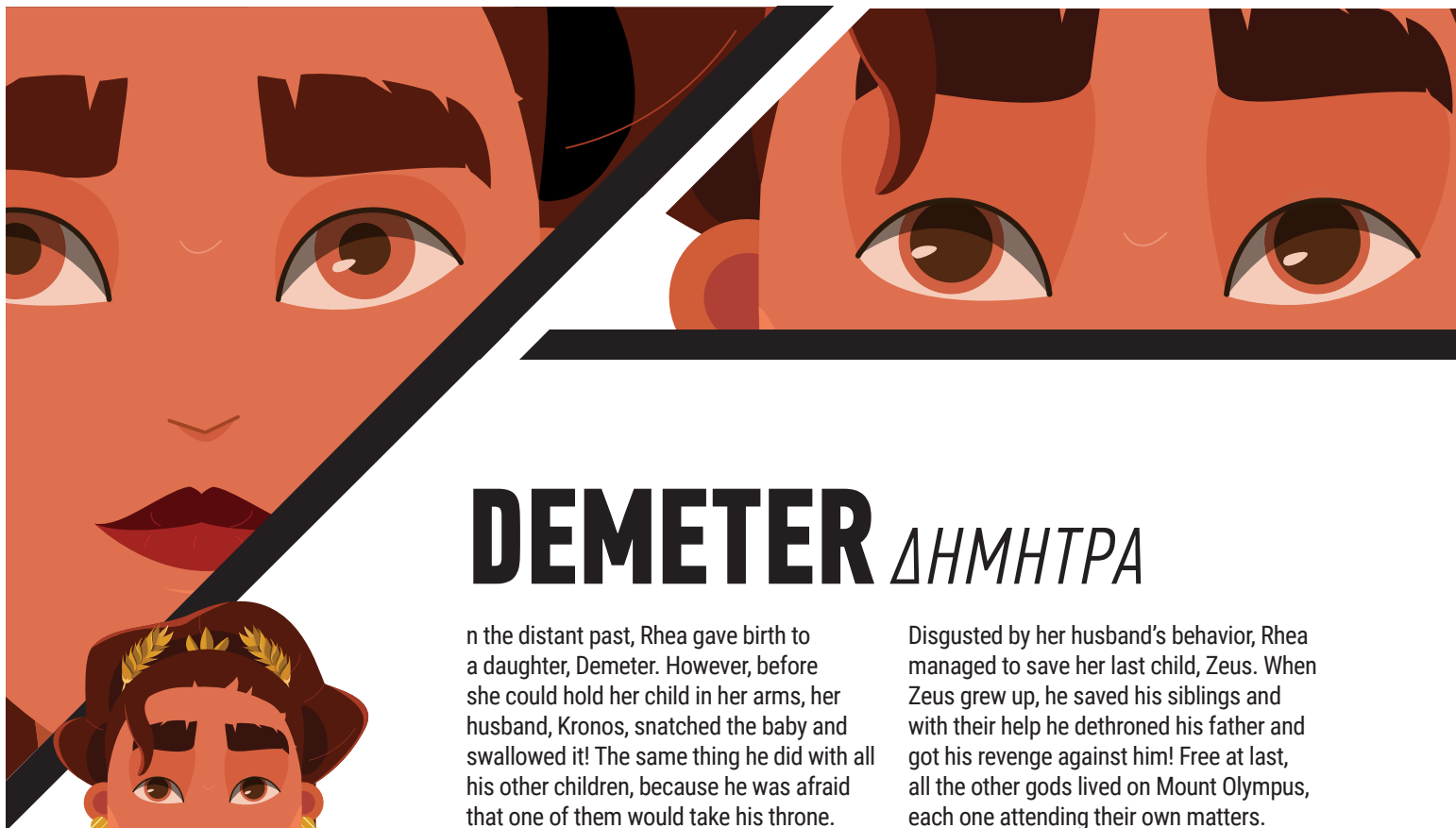
It looks like they truly believed that Charon asked for coins to admit the deceased in his boat and transport them to the Underworld. For this reason, they put coins above the eyes or under the tongue of the dead, to pay the ferryman and for his soul to move on.

PRECIOUS METALS

ΠΟΛΥΤΙΜΑ ΜΕΤΑΛΛΑ

The deceased had to pay Charon a coin, in order to be admitted in his boat, otherwise they would stay forever on that side of the river and they could never find peace! After they travelled for a while in the waters of Acheron river, they reached the entrance to the Underworld.





DEMETER *ΔΗΜΗΤΡΑ*

In the distant past, Rhea gave birth to a daughter, Demeter. However, before she could hold her child in her arms, her husband, Kronos, snatched the baby and swallowed it! The same thing he did with all his other children, because he was afraid that one of them would take his throne.

Disgusted by her husband's behavior, Rhea managed to save her last child, Zeus. When Zeus grew up, he saved his siblings and with their help he dethroned his father and got his revenge against him! Free at last, all the other gods lived on Mount Olympus, each one attending their own matters.

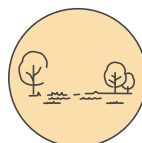
DEMETER WAS THE GODDESS OF AGRICULTURE

Plant growth and the fertility of the earth. People loved her very much and they honoured her with many lustrous ceremonies and celebrations dedicated to her, as she was the goddess responsible for the rich crops. Demeter rewarded her faithful worshippers with fertility for their fields and warehouses full of wheat and fruit!

DEMETER'S NAME ORIGINATED FROM THE ANCIENT DORIC DIALECT AND MEANS "THE MOTHER OF THE EARTH".

PLOUTOS

One of Demeter's children is Ploutos, the god who offers people riches and abundance. One of the most significant celebrations in honour of Demeter was Thesmoforia, which took place in the fall and it was connected to the harvest. During that event certain magic rituals were performed as well.



THE MOTHER EARTH

HARVEST

ΣΟΔΕΙΑ

People loved her very much and they honoured her with many lustrous ceremonies and celebrations dedicated to her, as she was the goddess responsible for the rich crops.

AGRICULTURE

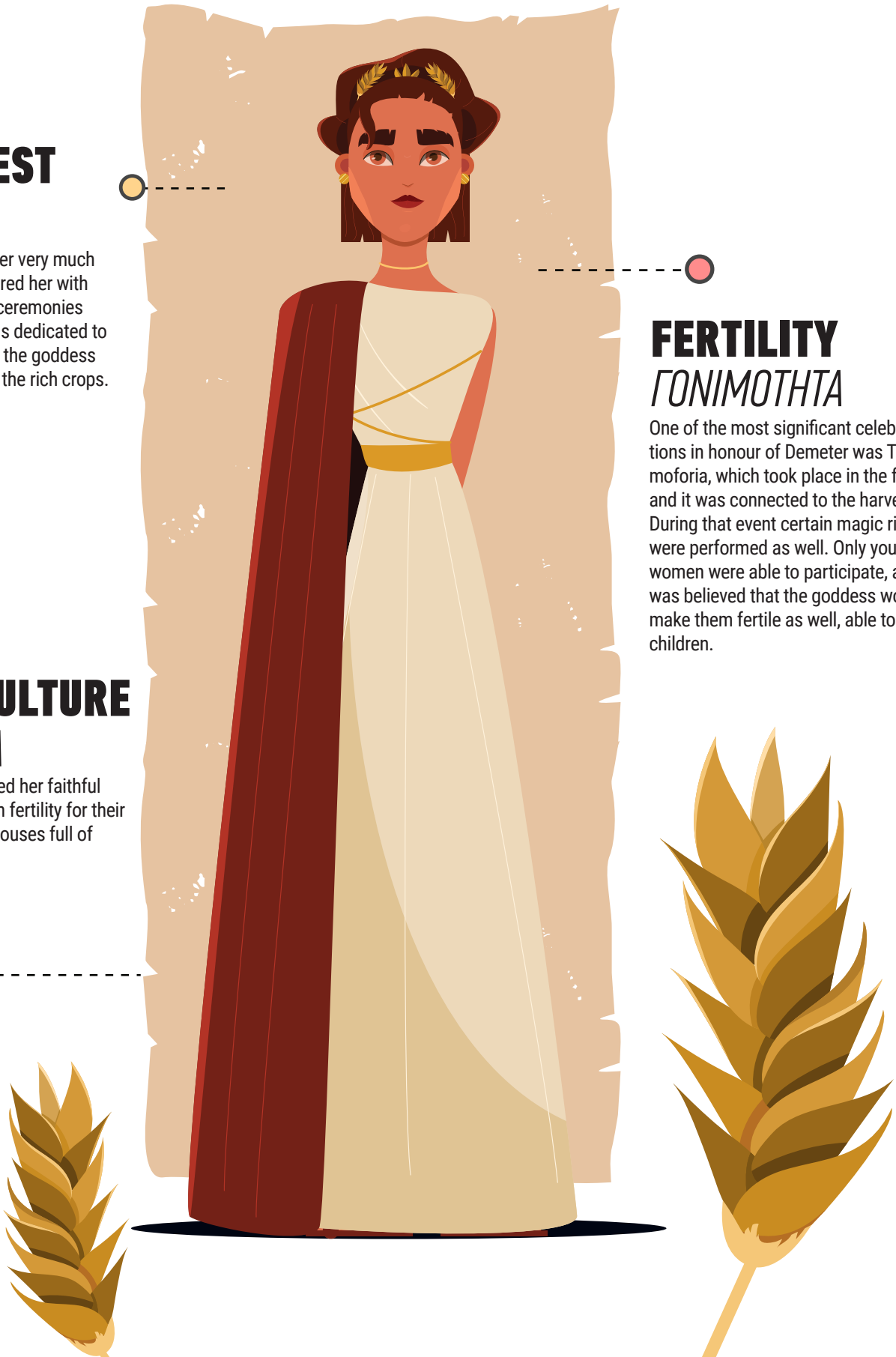
ΓΕΩΡΓΙΑ

Demeter rewarded her faithful worshippers with fertility for their fields and warehouses full of wheat and fruit!

FERTILITY

ΓΟΝΙΜΟΤΗΤΑ

One of the most significant celebrations in honour of Demeter was Thesmophoria, which took place in the fall and it was connected to the harvest. During that event certain magic rituals were performed as well. Only young women were able to participate, as it was believed that the goddess would make them fertile as well, able to bear children.

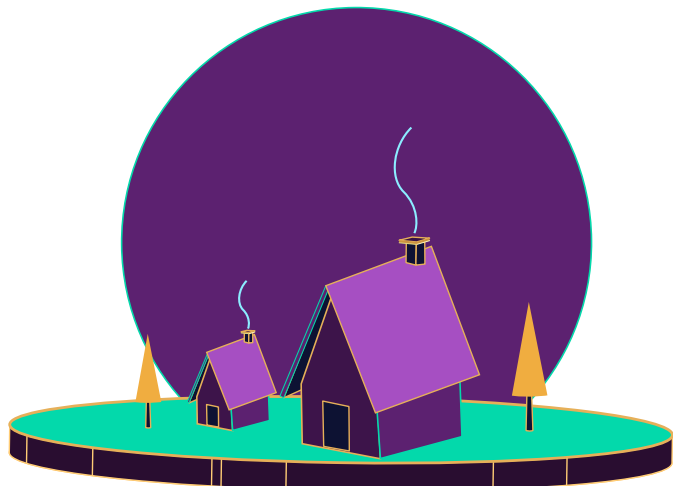
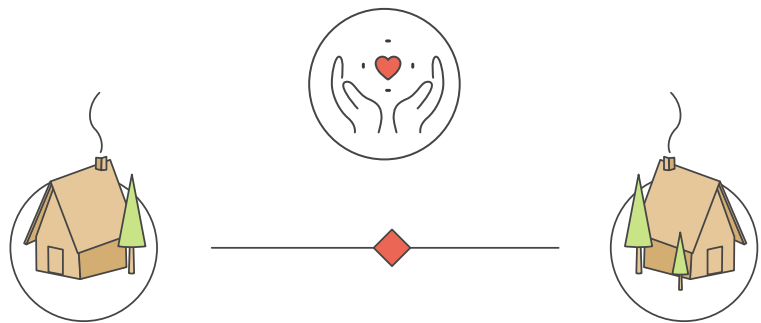




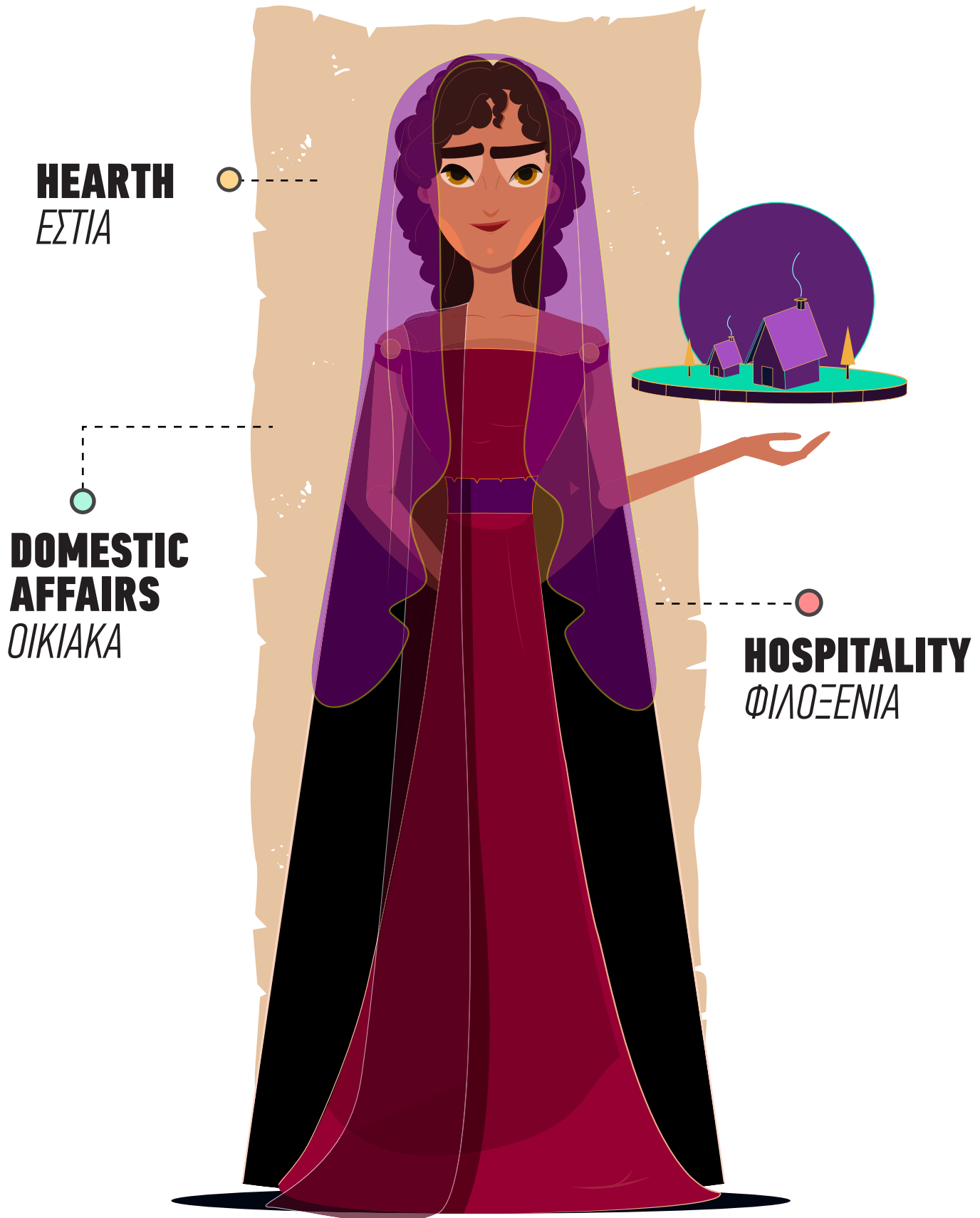
HESTIA *ΕΣΤΙΑ*

I am Hestia, the goddess of home and family! I am the oldest of the Olympians and the firstborn daughter of Kronos and Rhea. I live on Mount Olympus and I never leave the palace of the gods. There is not a city where people don't honour me. In fact, in every house there is a "hestia", a

hearth, which people use for warmth and to cook. Always, in every house, every temple and every city, I am the first to receive an offering, because I am not only the giver of family peace, but also of the inner peace that every human being seeks.



THE GUARDIAN OF HOMES AND FAMILIES





ARES *APHΣ*

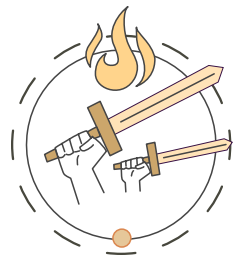
The god Ares was one of the few legitimate children of Zeus and his wife Hera. However, Ares was far from an exemplary child, and his parents could take pride in him! Ares was the god of war. On one hand, he symbolized valor, courage and muscular strength. On the other hand, Ares was the one that inspired cruelty, violence and disobedience to the laws. In short, he was

the one that made people behave cruelly and unlawfully! Ares was always first in battle, either on foot or on his chariot. His gaze was terrifying and his battlecries fired up the warriors. Deimos and Phobos, Ares' sons, were the ones that inspired fear and panic among the people, making them vulnerable and easy targets for their enemies.

No matter how terrible all these sound, even the god Ares faced situations from which even he couldn't emerge victorious. His rival was usually the goddess Athena, who was also a goddess of war, but she didn't represent the fury of battle as much as solid strategy and sound thinking, necessary virtues for winning a battle. During the Trojan War, Ares was on the side of the Trojans and he was the one helping Hektor to kill many Achaeans, for as long as Achilles stayed away from the battle. Athena was on the side of the Achaeans and she always accompanied the Achaean heroes in battle. One time the goddess, angered by the violence and battle fury of Ares, asked Hades for his helm, which turned its wearer invisible. She wore Hades' helm and then she stood by Diomedes' side, encouraging him to attack with courage and might against his opponent, who was none other than Ares! Diomedes threw his spear, which the invisible Athena guided in the right direction, and Ares was gravely wounded by the hand of a mortal and Athena's machinations!

DEIMOS AND PHOBOS

Deimos and Phobos are the names of the two satellites of the planet Mars, commemorating the gods' two ferocious sons, who accompanied him in battle. Ares had some additional terrifying companions: Eris, goddess of strife, Kudoimos, the battle demon, Maches and Ismines, symbolizing murder, as well as Alala, symbolizing the battlecry!



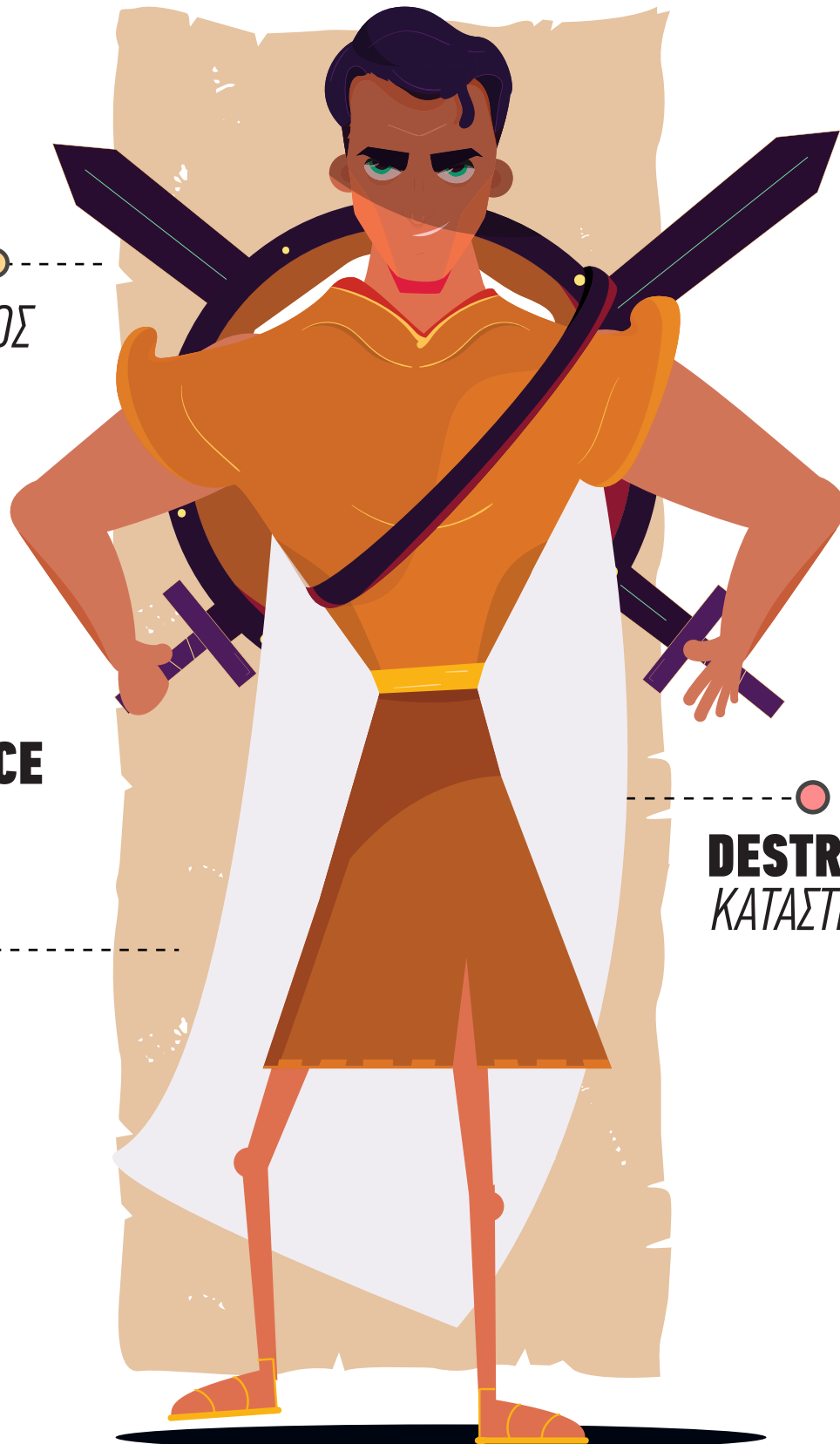
IN TROY, HE FOUGHT ON THE SIDE OF THE TROJANS, EVEN THOUGH TWO OF HIS SONS WERE FIGHTING ON THE SIDE OF THE ACHAEANS.

THE GOD OF WAR

WAR ●
ΠΟΛΕΜΟΣ

VIOLENCE
ΒΙΑ

●
DESTRUCTION
ΚΑΤΑΣΤΡΟΦΗ





HEPHAESTUS *ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ*

Hephaestus, just like Ares, was one of the few children of the royal couple, Zeus and Hera. However, they were not as popular as the other gods; Ares was not loved because of his character and Hephaestus was not loved because of his appearance! He was born ugly and a

cripple, and Hera, out of shame, threw him to the sea to drown, when he was only a baby! He was fortunate enough to be found by two sea goddesses, Thetis and Eurynome, who saved him and brought him up with great care, as if he was their own child.

HEPHAESTUS GREW UP AND, DESPITE HIS DISABILITY

He nurtured his great gift. He had the unique talent to use fire to create items both innovative and beautiful! He built his smithy under the island of Lemnos, where he spent all his time, until the day he decided to claim his place among the other gods. This was far from an easy feat, as his own parents were the ones who disowned him. There was only one solution: he had to get his revenge on the mother who treated him so cruelly when he was only a baby! After much thought, he found the best plan possible: he created the most beautiful golden throne and he sent it to his mother as a gift. Hera, feeling overly flattered, accepted this gift and sat on the throne with great satisfaction. Soon, though, she realized that this was a trap! Hephaestus, such a skilled craftsman, had covered the throne with a net so thin and transparent that no god noticed. Thus, Hera was trapped on that throne, and her only chance to be freed was for Hephaestus to come to Mount Olympus. Many gods descended to Lemnos, to persuade Hephaestus to set Hera free, even Ares, believing that the god of fire could not resist his might and wrath! Alas... Hephaestus started throwing flames to Ares, and the god of war fled the island in shame!

**HE WAS MARRIED
TO THE MOST BEAUTIFUL
GODDESS, APHRODITE!**



THE GREAT BLACKSMITH

FIRE

ΦΩΤΙΑ

The mountains there spat fire from their summits, which people believed came from the smithy, where the god crafted his masterpieces.

VOLCANOES

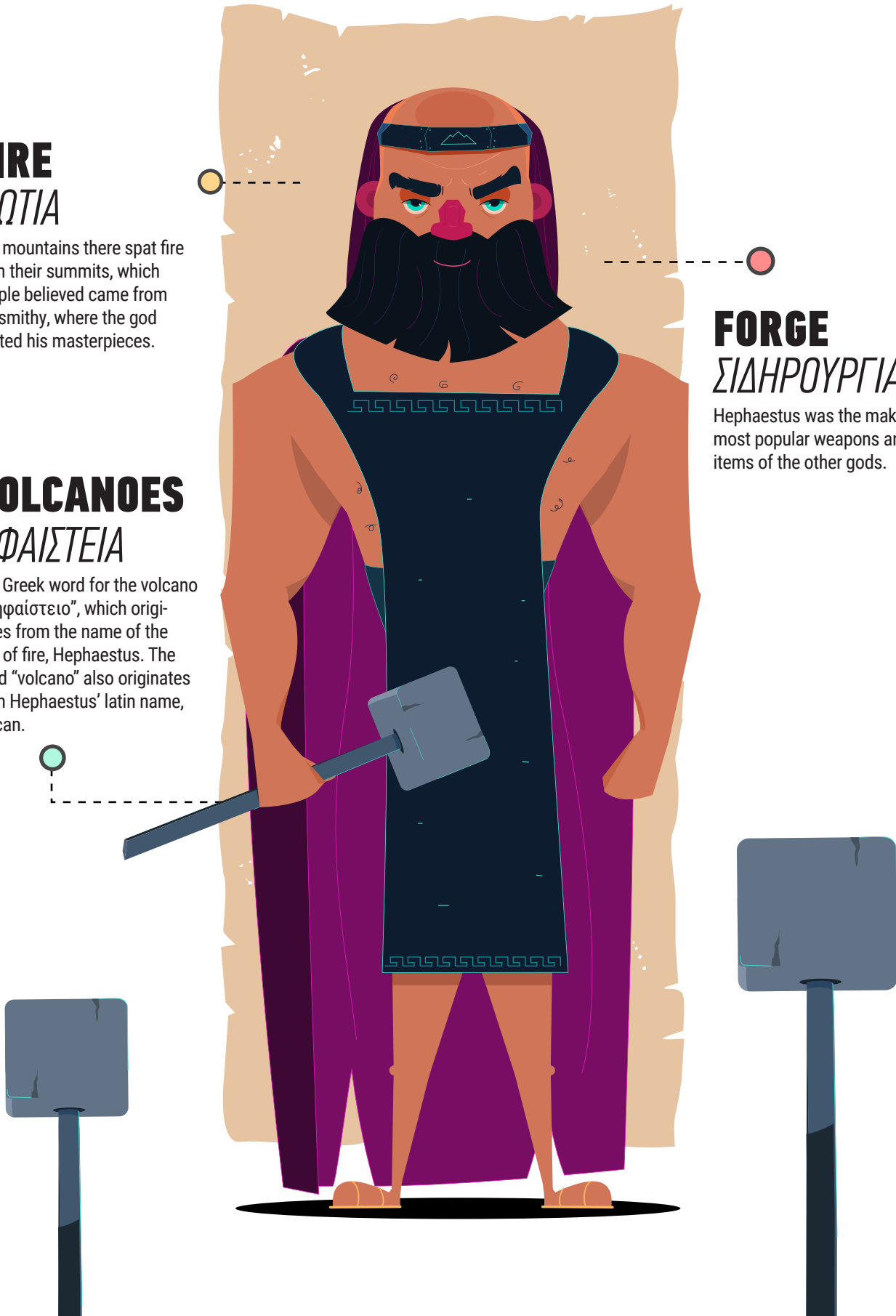
ΗΦΑΙΣΤΕΙΑ

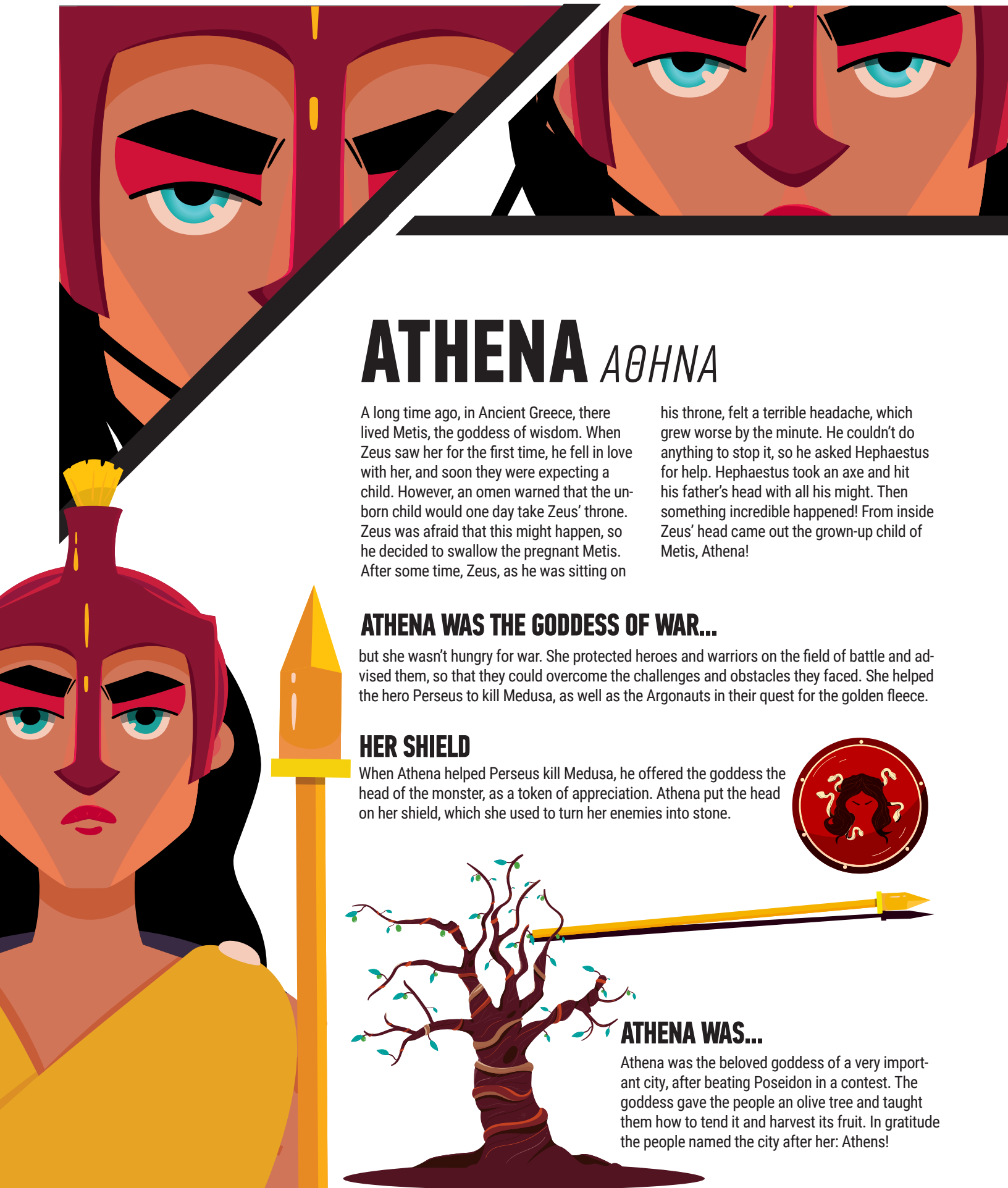
The Greek word for the volcano is "ηφαίστειο", which originates from the name of the god of fire, Hephaestus. The word "volcano" also originates from Hephaestus' latin name, Vulcan.

FORGE

ΣΙΔΗΡΟΥΡΓΙΑ

Hephaestus was the maker of the most popular weapons and personal items of the other gods.





ATHENA *AΘHNA*

A long time ago, in Ancient Greece, there lived Metis, the goddess of wisdom. When Zeus saw her for the first time, he fell in love with her, and soon they were expecting a child. However, an omen warned that the unborn child would one day take Zeus' throne. Zeus was afraid that this might happen, so he decided to swallow the pregnant Metis. After some time, Zeus, as he was sitting on

his throne, felt a terrible headache, which grew worse by the minute. He couldn't do anything to stop it, so he asked Hephaestus for help. Hephaestus took an axe and hit his father's head with all his might. Then something incredible happened! From inside Zeus' head came out the grown-up child of Metis, Athena!

ATHENA WAS THE GODDESS OF WAR...

but she wasn't hungry for war. She protected heroes and warriors on the field of battle and advised them, so that they could overcome the challenges and obstacles they faced. She helped the hero Perseus to kill Medusa, as well as the Argonauts in their quest for the golden fleece.

HER SHIELD

When Athena helped Perseus kill Medusa, he offered the goddess the head of the monster, as a token of appreciation. Athena put the head on her shield, which she used to turn her enemies into stone.



ATHENA WAS...

Athena was the beloved goddess of a very important city, after beating Poseidon in a contest. The goddess gave the people an olive tree and taught them how to tend it and harvest its fruit. In gratitude the people named the city after her: Athens!

THE GUARDIAN OF ATHENS

WISDOM

ΣΟΦΙΑ

As the daughter of Metis, she was also considered goddess of wisdom and invention, and so she also looked out for poets, public speakers and philosophers.

STRATEGY

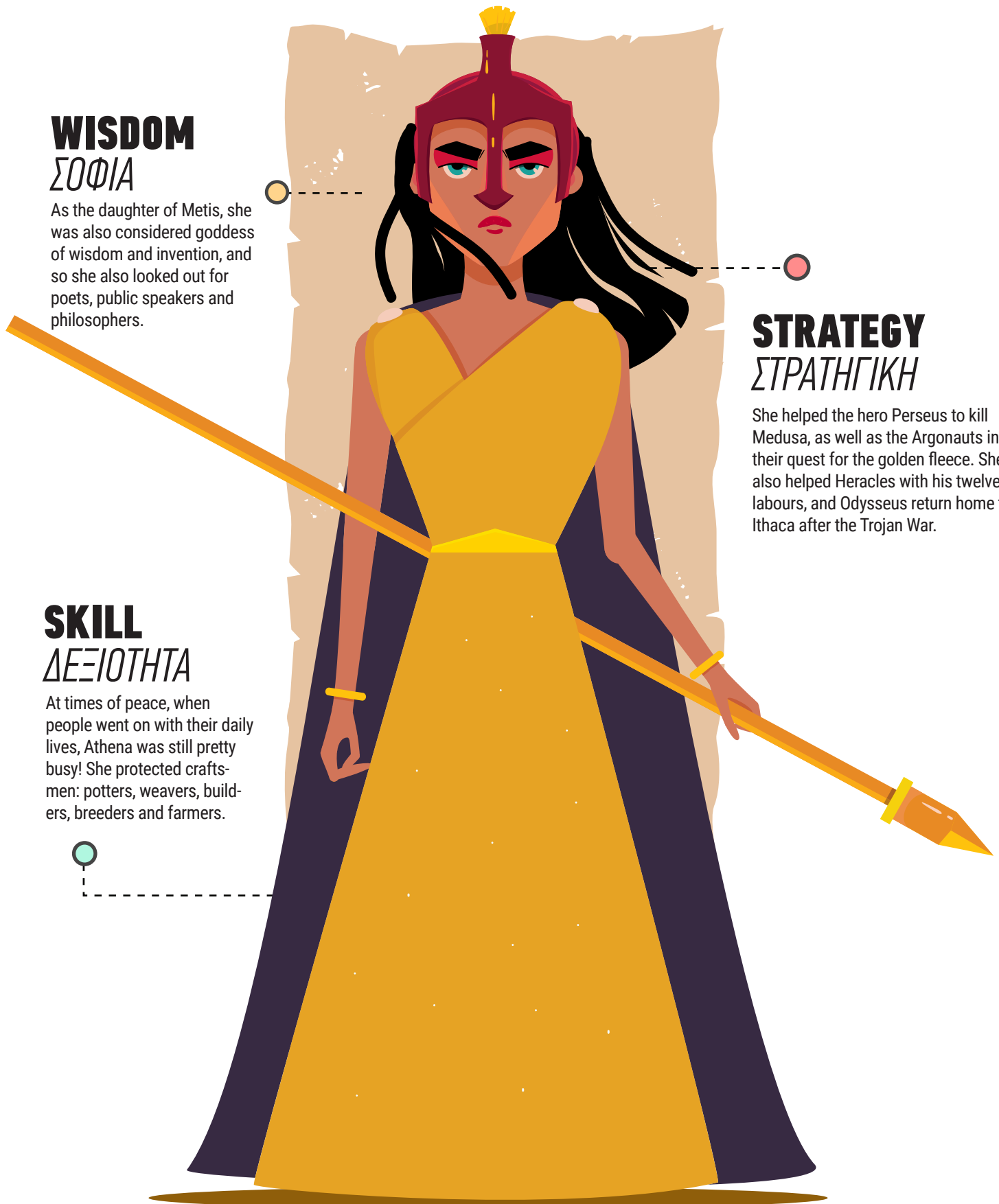
ΣΤΡΑΤΗΓΙΚΗ

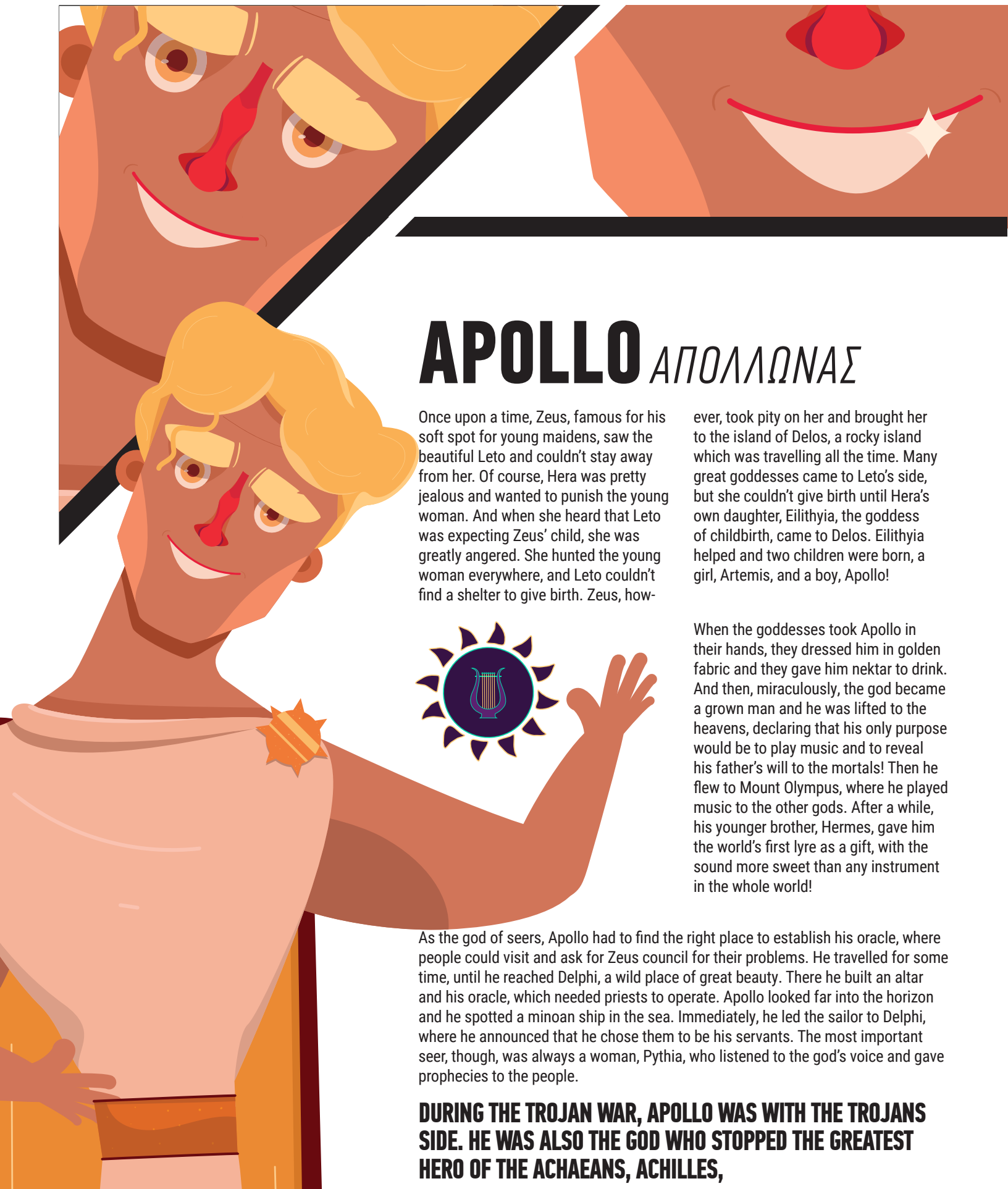
She helped the hero Perseus to kill Medusa, as well as the Argonauts in their quest for the golden fleece. She also helped Heracles with his twelve labours, and Odysseus return home to Ithaca after the Trojan War.

SKILL

ΔΕΞΙΟΤΗΤΑ

At times of peace, when people went on with their daily lives, Athena was still pretty busy! She protected craftsmen: potters, weavers, builders, breeders and farmers.

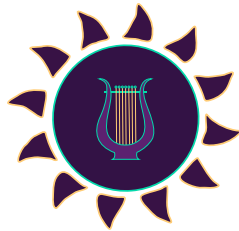




APOLLO *ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝΑΣ*

Once upon a time, Zeus, famous for his soft spot for young maidens, saw the beautiful Leto and couldn't stay away from her. Of course, Hera was pretty jealous and wanted to punish the young woman. And when she heard that Leto was expecting Zeus' child, she was greatly angered. She hunted the young woman everywhere, and Leto couldn't find a shelter to give birth. Zeus, how-

ever, took pity on her and brought her to the island of Delos, a rocky island which was travelling all the time. Many great goddesses came to Leto's side, but she couldn't give birth until Hera's own daughter, Eilithyia, the goddess of childbirth, came to Delos. Eilithyia helped and two children were born, a girl, Artemis, and a boy, Apollo!

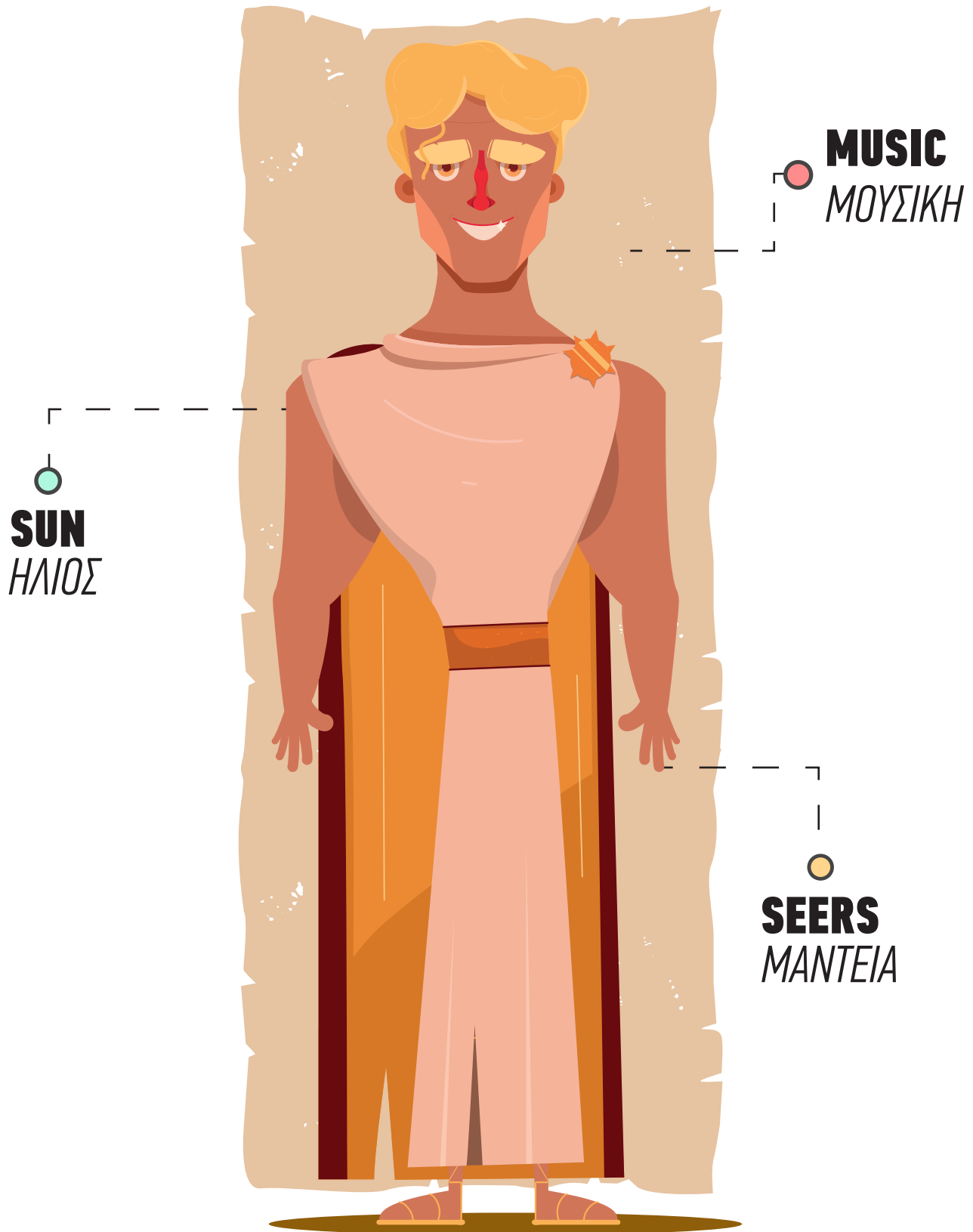


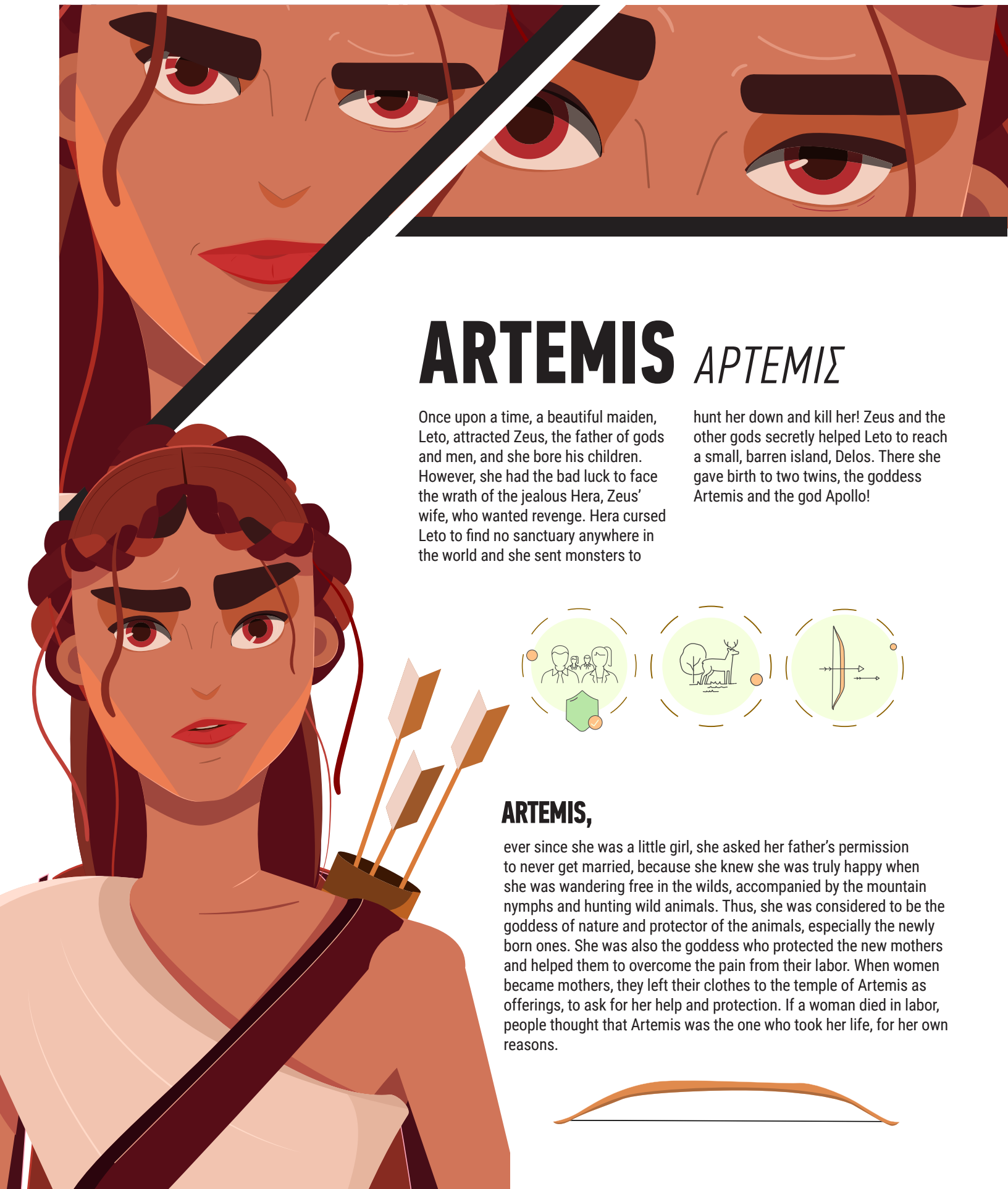
When the goddesses took Apollo in their hands, they dressed him in golden fabric and they gave him nectar to drink. And then, miraculously, the god became a grown man and he was lifted to the heavens, declaring that his only purpose would be to play music and to reveal his father's will to the mortals! Then he flew to Mount Olympus, where he played music to the other gods. After a while, his younger brother, Hermes, gave him the world's first lyre as a gift, with the sound more sweet than any instrument in the whole world!

As the god of seers, Apollo had to find the right place to establish his oracle, where people could visit and ask for Zeus council for their problems. He travelled for some time, until he reached Delphi, a wild place of great beauty. There he built an altar and his oracle, which needed priests to operate. Apollo looked far into the horizon and he spotted a minoan ship in the sea. Immediately, he led the sailor to Delphi, where he announced that he chose them to be his servants. The most important seer, though, was always a woman, Pythia, who listened to the god's voice and gave prophecies to the people.

DURING THE TROJAN WAR, APOLLO WAS WITH THE TROJANS SIDE. HE WAS ALSO THE GOD WHO STOPPED THE GREATEST HERO OF THE ACHAEANS, ACHILLES,

THE BRINGER OF LIGHT

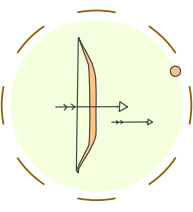
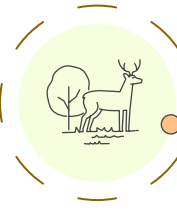




ARTEMIS *ARTEMIS*

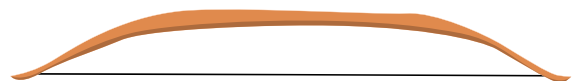
Once upon a time, a beautiful maiden, Leto, attracted Zeus, the father of gods and men, and she bore his children. However, she had the bad luck to face the wrath of the jealous Hera, Zeus' wife, who wanted revenge. Hera cursed Leto to find no sanctuary anywhere in the world and she sent monsters to

hunt her down and kill her! Zeus and the other gods secretly helped Leto to reach a small, barren island, Delos. There she gave birth to two twins, the goddess Artemis and the god Apollo!

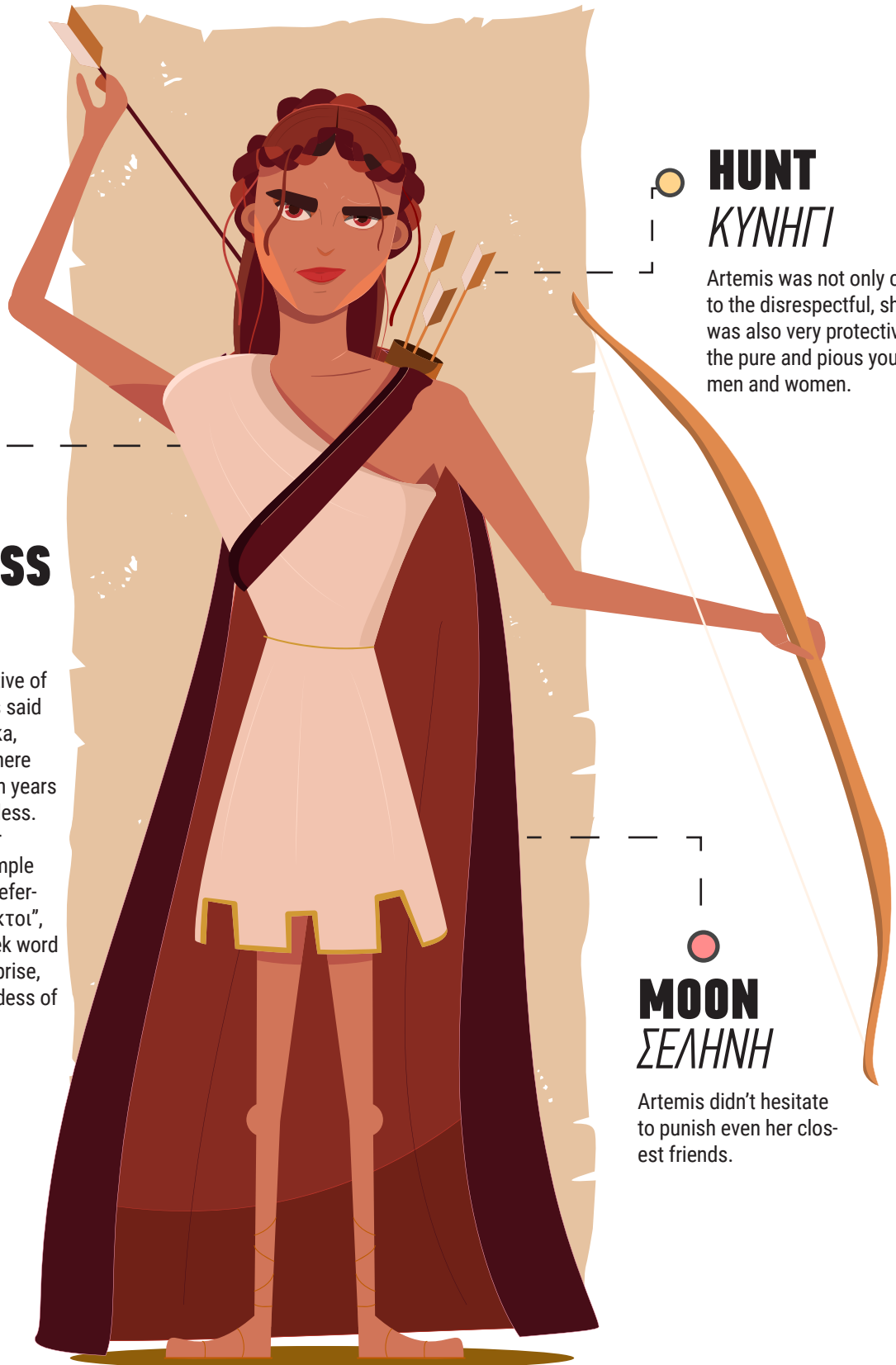


ARTEMIS,

ever since she was a little girl, she asked her father's permission to never get married, because she knew she was truly happy when she was wandering free in the wilds, accompanied by the mountain nymphs and hunting wild animals. Thus, she was considered to be the goddess of nature and protector of the animals, especially the newly born ones. She was also the goddess who protected the new mothers and helped them to overcome the pain from their labor. When women became mothers, they left their clothes to the temple of Artemis as offerings, to ask for her help and protection. If a woman died in labor, people thought that Artemis was the one who took her life, for her own reasons.



THE HUNTRESS



HUNT ΚΥΝΗΓΙ

Artemis was not only cruel to the disrespectful, she was also very protective of the pure and pious young men and women.

WILDERNESS ΑΓΡΙΑ ΦΥΣΗ

Artemis was very protective of the small children. It was said that in her temple in Attika, among the priestesses there were little girls, five to ten years old, who served the goddess. We don't know what their responsibilities in the temple were, but everyone was referring to that group as "άρκτοι", which is the ancient Greek word for "bear". This is no surprise, since Artemis is the goddess of wild animals!

MOON ΣΕΛΗΝΗ

Artemis didn't hesitate to punish even her closest friends.



HERMES *ΕΡΜΗΣ*

Once upon a time there was a beautiful and shy young woman, Maia, who was living in a remote cave. She was the oldest and most beautiful of the Pleiads. Naturally, Zeus

couldn't resist her beauty; he went to her cave and slept with her. Thus, a beautiful baby was born, Hermes!

HERMES WAS ONLY FOUR DAYS OLD, WHEN...

He decided that he couldn't no longer stay inside his cradle; he had to discover the world! First, he met a turtle. He was overjoyed, he played with her, and then he used her shell to create the first lyre in the world! He played the lyre for a while, but he soon got bored... Now he was also hungry and he looked for something to eat. Hermes, though, wasn't an ordinary baby. He didn't want milk, he wanted to eat meat! He was lucky enough to find a herd of oxen. These oxen, though, belonged to the god Apollo, and Helios was looking after them. Hermes was not afraid! He waited for the sun to set, and then he stole fifty of these oxen! He made the oxen walk backwards, to hide their tracks! He was mischievous even as a baby! He brought the oxen in a cave, where he could be safe. There he cooked the meat of two of them, lighting the first fire in the world! But before the meat was ready, Hermes changed his mind and he didn't want to eat the meat. So he divided the meat in twelve portions and offered them to the Olympian gods.

IT IS SAID THAT HERMES WAS THE GRANDFATHER OF ODYSSEUS, KING OF ITHACA!

This can explain Odysseus' intelligence and cunning. Don't forget, it was Odysseus' plan to build the Trojan Horse and eventually conquer the city of Troy, after a ten-year siege!



THE MESSENGER OF THE GODS

TRADE *ΕΜΠΟΡΙΟ*

With the wind on his side, he offers speed to the travellers and guides them to the proper direction. For this reason, at the crossroads of the city of Athens there were "hermes", columns with the bust of Hermes, which functioned as wind vanes and helped the travellers' orientation!

MISCHIEF *ΠΟΝΗΡΙΑ*

Even though he was mischievous and a rogue, Hermes became one of the most loveable gods for the people. He was the one accompanying them in every aspect of their lives!

POETRY *ΠΟΙΗΣΗ*





DIONYSOS ΔΙΟΝΥΣΟΣ

Once upon a time, Zeus fell in love with Semele, daughter of Kadmus, king of Thebes, and, because he couldn't stay far from her, he sneaked into her room at night. Their secret relationship was long, and Zeus, mad for her, promised the young girl to grant her anything she wished for!

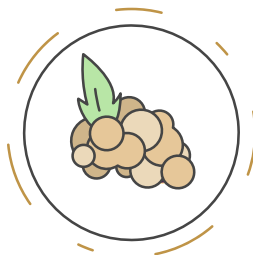
Hera found out about her husband's infidelity and she decided to get her revenge with mischief. She couldn't do anything to Zeus, but she could definitely punish that young

girl! She went to Semele, disguised and hiding her identity and she told Semele to ask Zeus to appear in front of her in all his glory. Zeus hesitated, because he knew that no mortal could behold his real form and live, but he had given his promise to Semele and he couldn't back out! He appeared in front of her, riding his chariot, with lightning bolts in his hands. And among all the thunder and lightning, one bolt killed Semele and set the palace on fire!

Semele, however, was pregnant to Dionysos, who, as a descendent of a god, was not allowed to die in such a manner. Gaia was the one that gave a solution to the problem: she made an ivy to grow from the earth, which took the child away from the fire and then Zeus put baby Dionysos in his thigh, until the time of his birth came. That's how Dionysos was protected from Hera's jealousy!

WHEN THE TIME CAME...

And Dionysos was born, Zeus sent him to his aunt, Ino, and her husband, to bring him up. Hera, however, was not satisfied yet and she cursed the couple with madness, to make them kill all their children, Dionysos among them. Luckily, Zeus was there, just in time to save his son. This time, though, to be sure that he wouldn't be in any danger, he turned Dionysos into a little goat and he gave the child to the lades, the mountain nymphs, to nurture and protect.

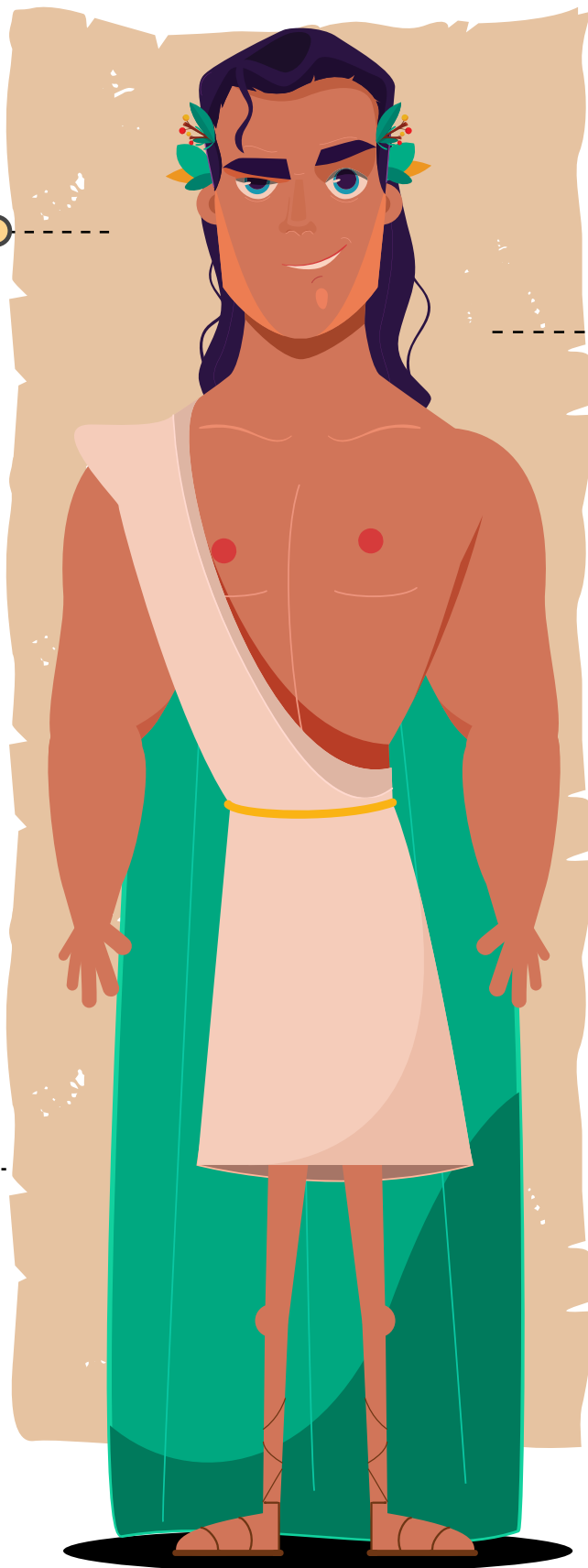


THE SHAPE-SHIFTER

WINE
ΚΡΑΣΙ

THEATER
ΘΕΑΤΡΟ

PARTIES
ΓΛΕΝΤΙΑ





APHRODITE *AΦΡΟΔΙΤΗ*

One of the countless young maidens, whom Zeus fell in love with, was Dione. From their union the most beautiful goddess was born, Aphrodite, the goddess of beauty, charm and love. Actually, Zeus gave her a belt as a gift, which had the power to invoke love and desire to anyone. However, her beauty was dangerous... All the gods would want her for

their wife and Zeus was afraid that this would lead to fighting between them. So he decided to marry Aphrodite to his son Hephaestus; if she was someone's wife, things would be made clear and no one would claim her as his own wife. Indeed, the other gods accepted without protest and, thus, Aphrodite and Hephaestus became a legitimate couple.

However, among the gods lived Ares, who didn't abide by any law or ethics. And since he couldn't actually marry Aphrodite, he decided to have her as a mistress! Their relationship was kept a secret for a long time and they had many children: Deimos and Phobos, who belonged to Ares retinue, as well as Eros and Harmony, who belonged to Aphrodite's retinue. At some point Hephaestus discovered their secret affair and, greatly insulted, revealed the secret to all the other gods, to ridicule them!

Aphrodite was responsible for all the affairs of gods and men. Her first and most usual victim was her father, Zeus, who always felt a rising passion for many women, mortal or immortal. Even though he was almighty, he couldn't escape Eros' arrows! Aphrodite was also critical of all the gods having children with mortals. So, Zeus decided to give his daughter a lesson: he made her feel overwhelming love for a mortal man, Anchises. From their union, Aeneas was born, who was the ancestor of Remus and Romulus, founders of Rome! Aphrodite, however, wasn't humiliated as much by this relationship as by her true love for a mortal man, Adonis. He was a young man of great beauty, who was killed by the tusks of a wild boar. Where Adonis' blood was spilled, red roses bloomed, while from the goddess' tears grew the first anemones!

ACCORDING TO ANOTHER MYTH, EQUALLY POPULAR, URANUS WAS THE FATHER OF APHRODITE!

When Kronos usurped his father's throne, he cut his father's genitals and threw them in the sea. They became seafoam and travelled the ocean. At last, when the seafoam reached the island of Cyprus, it started to disappear and from the sea emerged a beautiful naked woman. It is said that Aphrodite's name actually means "the one who emerged from the foam".

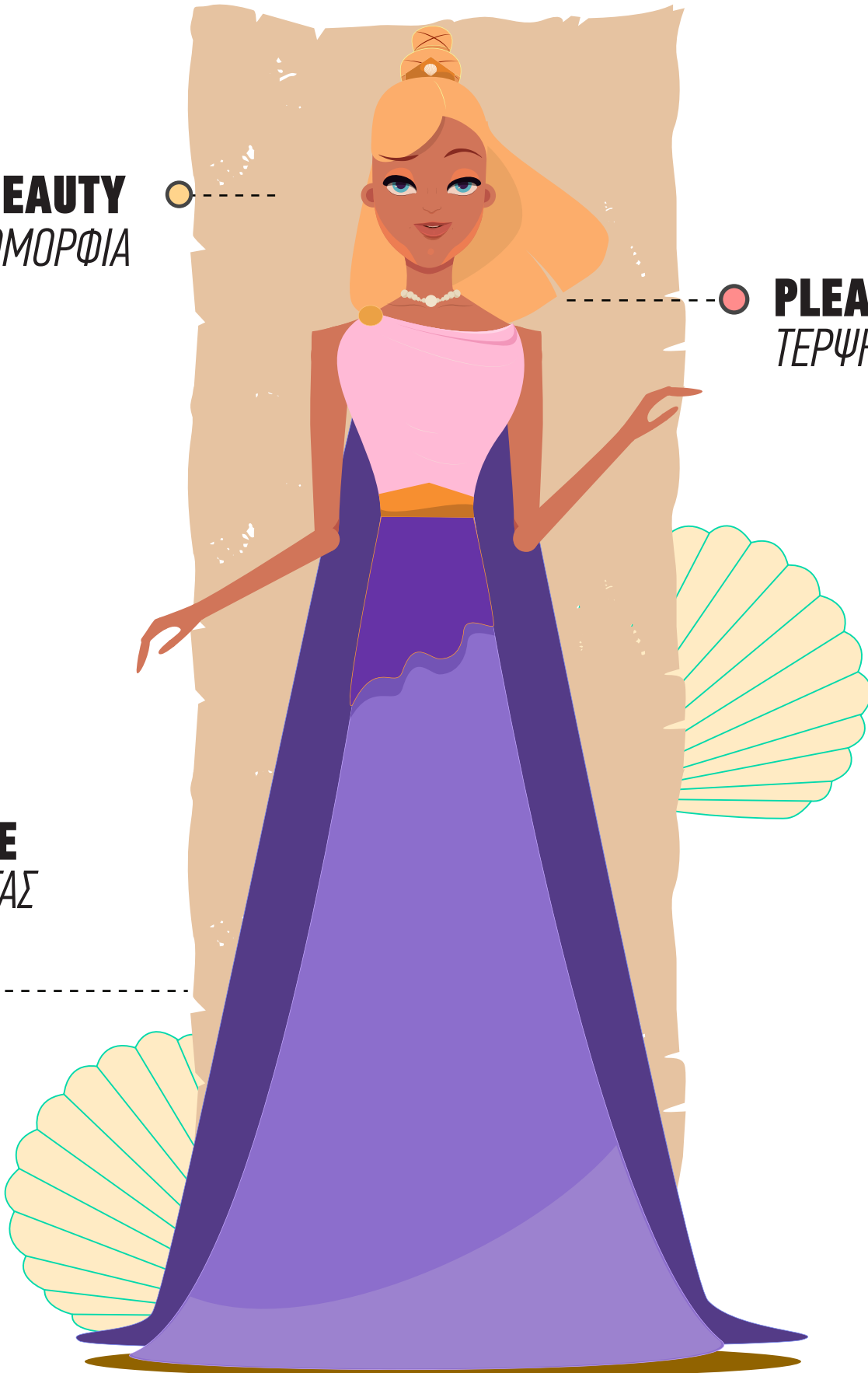


THE FAIREST

BEAUTY
ΟΜΟΡΦΙΑ

PLEASURE
ΤΕΡΨΗ

LOVE
ΕΡΩΤΑΣ



staellinika

THE OLYMPIANS