

Name: _____

Date: _____

Handout 3A: “Pandora’s Box” Organizer

Directions:

- Read the myth, “Pandora’s Box,” in *Gifts from the Gods: Ancient Words & Wisdom from Greek & Roman Mythology*.
- Record answers to the questions about the myth in the boxes on the left.
- Read pages 10–15 in *Understanding Greek Myths*.
- Record details from the text that support your answers about “Pandora’s Box.”

1. What role did the gods play?

“Pandora’s Box”	<i>Understanding Greek Myths</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They created Pandora • They made the first human woman. • Each god gave her a special gift • Zeus gave her curiosity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greeks believed in many gods • Zeus was king of gods • Gods managed certain parts of nature. • Gods had faults like weaknesses and jealousy • Gods shared their gifts with people.

2. What was the problem?

"Pandora's Box"	Understanding Greek Myths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Pandora was curious and could not control her desire to open the box · she opened the the box even though she wasn't supposed to · Bad things flew out like pain and greed · The bad things didn't exist before. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Prometheus stole fire from the gods and gave it to humans · Zeus wanted to punish Prometheus · Pandora was a gift, but she was really a punishment.

3. How was the problem resolved?

"Pandora's Box"	Understanding Greek Myths
<p>Hope remained in the box that Pandora opened</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Hope helps us deal with difficult situations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Offerings were made to different gods to ask for help. · Gods shared their gifts with people.

Name: _____

Date: _____

4. What idea does this myth explain?

"Pandora's Box"	Understanding Greek Myths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This myth explains why there are evils in the world like sickness and despair • The myth explains why we have hope to help us through a difficult time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This might be a morality myth because it explains that people would be punished for disobeying the gods. • It could also be a creation myth because it explains how evils came to be in the world.

5. What can we learn about the beliefs of the ancient Greeks? How does the myth relate to the word *moral*?

"Pandora's Box"	Understanding Greek Myths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They created humans, so the ancient Greeks worshipped them • People will be punished for their bad behavior or for disobeying the gods • This myth shows that the Greeks believed that the gods wanted people to behave in a certain way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • polytheistic • Gods controlled many things in nature. • Gods wanted people to behave in certain ways • Gods punished those who disobeyed them.