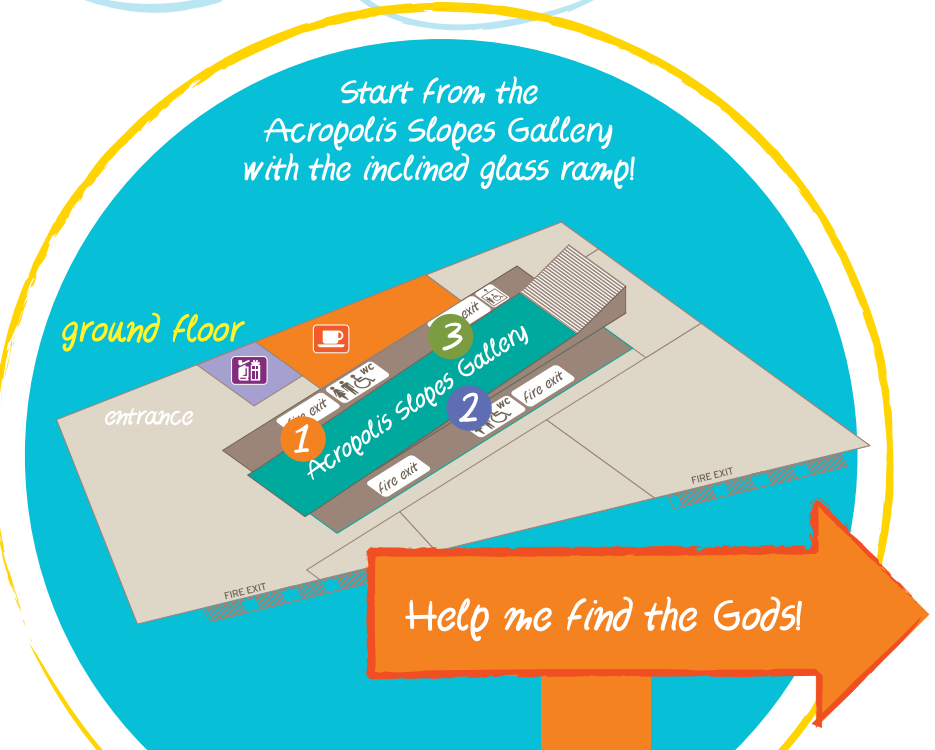


Hello there!
I am Iris,
the rainbow Goddess,
the winged messenger
of the Olympian Gods.



I have to find the Gods and invite them
to the Goddess Athena's birthday.
The celebration will be held
in the Parthenon Gallery
on the 3rd floor of the Museum.



1. Hermes

Once upon a time the three Goddesses,
Athena, Hera and Aphrodite
fought over who was the most beautiful.
Paris, the prince of Troy had to make that difficult
decision. Hermes took the three Goddesses to Paris.

Can you spot Hermes on the vase?

Which of the symbols of the God Hermes
would you like to have and why?

Messenger,
protector of travelers
and trade.
Symbols: kerykeion,
winged sandals,
winged cap.

God of sun,
music and prophecy
Symbols: lyre,
tripod, laurel,
dolphin.

2. Apollo

On this marble relief
you can see Apollo sitting on a rock
and holding his kithara (guitar).



Can you recognize
any other Gods?

3. Dionysos

Even though he did not belong to the 12 great
Olympian Gods there is no way that Dionysos
cannot be at the party. This big face is a marble
mask of Dionysos. It was originally placed up on a
column that would be dressed with clothes and
people would dance around it!



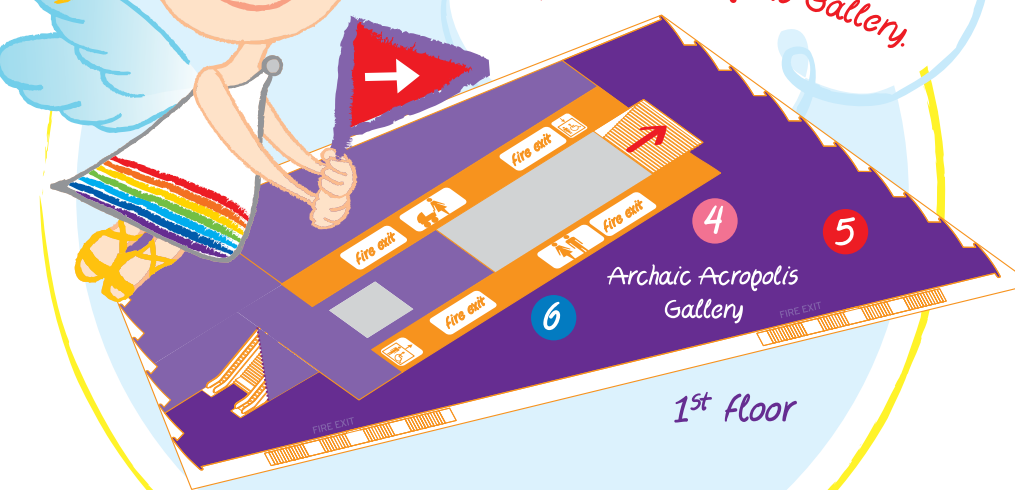
With what place is the
worship of Dionysos linked?

- Oracle
- Theatre
- Healing Centre
- Stadium

God
of vineyards, wine,
dance and theatre.
Symbols: mask,
grapes, ivy,
panther.



Now go up to the
1st floor to the
Archaic Acropolis Gallery.



4. Artemis

This beautiful kore statue is most likely the Goddess Artemis.
Imagine her with the arrows she held in her right hand
and her bow in the left hand. Look at the colored copy beside
the statue and note the details of the decoration on her clothes.



Which of the motifs
make us think that this is
the Goddess Artemis?

Goddess
of the forest, wild
animals and hunting.
Symbols: bow, arrow,
moon, deer,
bear.

5. Zeus

On this small pediment we can see Zeus and Hera
receiving Herakles on Mount Olympus.
See how clearly you can still see the color
that originally was painted on the pediment



Note also how beautiful the throne of Zeus is!



King
and father
of all Gods and
humans.
Symbols: thunderbolt,
sceptre, eagle,
oak.

6. Athena

This statue of Athena
once decorated the pediment that showed
the Gigantomachy, that is, the battle
between the Olympian Gods and the Giants.
The Goddess wears the aegis, an overcoat,
with frightening snakes around its edges.
The Goddess' opponent was the Giant Engelos
of which only part of a foot survives!



Do you know what natural
phenomenon Engelos is linked with?

Goddess
of wisdom
and civilization,
patron deity of Athens.
Symbols: spear,
helmet, shield, aegis,
owl, olive.

7. Demeter

The marble relief you see here
shows two goddesses arm in arm.
On the left is Demeter and on the right
her daughter, Persephone.

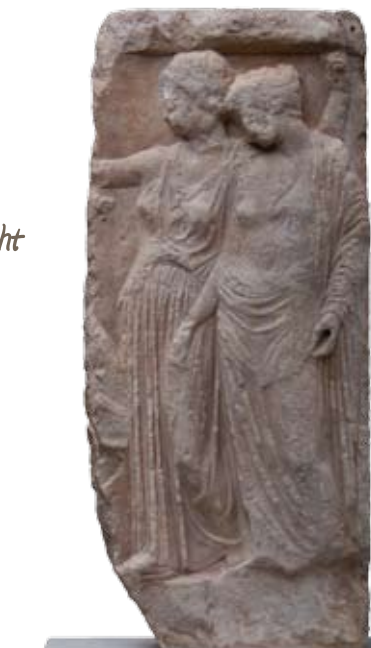
Persephone was married to Hades
and she was queen of the:

- sky
- sea
- Underworld

Goddess of
agriculture.
She taught people
how to cultivate the earth.
Symbols: torch,
ear of corn, pig.



Now go to the
5th century BC to the
End of Antiquity
Gallery.



8. Ares

On the marble relief the God Ares wears his armour and leans on his shield. He is crowning a man.

Why do you think this man has received this honor?
Because he was distinguished in:

- War Athletic Competitions Theatrical Competitions



God of war and battle.
Symbols: weapons, dog.



9. Hera

In order to honor their allies from Samos, the Athenians carved images of Athena and Hera, the two patron deities of their cities, the moment that they are shaking hands to seal the agreement.



Wife of Zeus. She protected marriage and family.
Symbols: sceptre, pomegranate, peacock.

What symbol is Hera as queen of the Gods, holding here?



Now go to the 3rd floor to the Parthenon Gallery and move eastwards!

10. Hestia

Look carefully at this statue on the right side of the pediment. It is Hestia. She observes the Birth of Athena once shown in the centre of the pediment.

Try to recognise the rest of the Gods on the pediment.



Goddess of home and family. She had no particular symbols.



Now go behind the pediment to see the frieze. Thanks to your help, the Gods are all here!

Amongst them, the Athenians offer the Goddess Athena their gift. It is a new dress, the peplos.

Which two Gods haven't you found yet?

12. Hephaistos

Besides Athena sits Hephaistos who is talking with her.

You can see that Hephaistos supports himself on a cane. Why?



God of fire. He created artifacts from metal.
Symbols: goldsmith tools, cane, donkey.

13. Poseidon

Poseidon sits alongside Hephaistos. He was Athena's opponent at the contest for the protection of the city.



God of the sea.
Symbols: trident, horse, pine.

What do you think he would hold with his raised hand?



Now look at all the Gods together and try to identify each one of them. They are all seated and the only one standing amongst them is me, Iris!

Try to find me!

Congratulations! I am so happy I was able to spend this time with you!



I'll be waiting for you to come again so we can have more of these adventures together

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Family Trail



For children aged 8-11 years

An Invitation to the
Olympian Gods
at the Acropolis Museum

A Day at the Acropolis Museum

