

Pandora's Box

A long time ago in Ancient Greece, there lived two gods named Epimetheus and Prometheus. Zeus, the most powerful of all gods, had hidden fire from mankind, never allowing them to make tools or cook their food. Prometheus thought this was unfair.

Prometheus knew that on the Isle of Lemnos lived Hephaestos, a blacksmith that Zeus had allowed to use fire to make things for the gods. Prometheus stole the fire from Hephaestos and gave it to man.

Zeus was furious at Prometheus and chained him to the side of a cliff for many years. Zeus also punished humans for their lack of respect and came up with a very cunning plan.

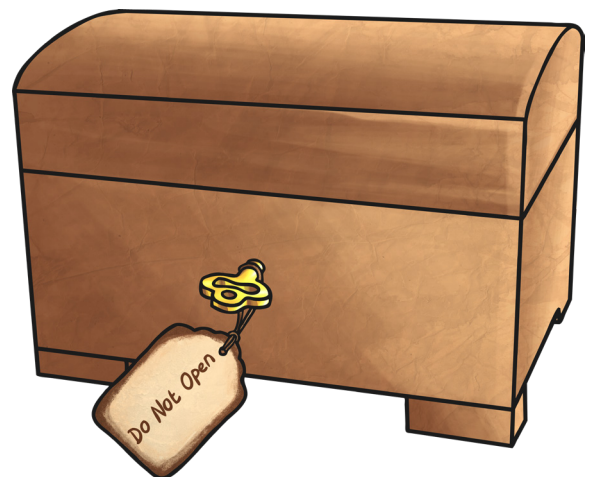
Zeus and Hephaestos sculpted a woman out of clay. Zeus called her Pandora and sent her to Epimetheus.

Prometheus warned Epimetheus not to accept any gifts from the gods. However, Epimetheus was so charmed by Pandora that he thought she could never cause any harm. Zeus was pleased that his plan was working and, as a wedding gift, gave Pandora a small box.

When Pandora was given the box, she instantly became curious. The box was locked, but had a small key and a note attached to it that said 'DO NOT OPEN!' Pandora promised that she would not open the box, but all she could think about was its contents.

When she knew that Epimetheus was out of sight, Pandora closed her eyes and unlocked the box. When she opened her eyes and pulled the box open, she expected to see fine silk dresses and jewellery. Instead, Zeus had packed terrible evils into the box and out poured sickness, death, poverty and sadness, in the form of a horrible black mass.

Pandora slammed the lid shut but it was too late; the evils had already escaped into the world. Epimetheus heard her weeping and ran into the room to comfort her. Pandora could still hear a tiny voice inside the box, pleading to be released. Together, they opened the box and out fluttered hope, in the form of a beautiful gold dragonfly, healing some of the sickness and sorrow.



Even though Pandora had released suffering and sadness upon the world, she had also released hope, and this made all the difference in the world.

Questions

1. Who was the most powerful god? Tick one.

- ☐ Prometheus
☐ Zeus
☐ Epimetheus
☐ Hephaestos

2. Find and copy one word that means 'angry'.

3. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

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Prometheus stole
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When Pandora was
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a woman out of clay.

4. Number the events from **1-5** to show the order in which they occur in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- ☐ Zeus also punished humans for their lack of respect and came up with a very cunning plan.
☐ Pandora closed her eyes and unlocked the box.
☒ **1** Zeus, the most powerful of all gods, had hidden fire from mankind
☐ Zeus and Hephaestos sculpted a woman out of clay.
☐ Prometheus stole the fire from Hephaestos and gave it to man.

5. What form were the terrible evils that poured out from the box? Tick one.

- ☐ gold dragonfly
- ☐ black mass
- ☐ fine silk dresses and jewellery
- ☐ a tiny voice

6. Fill in the missing words.

Together, they opened the box and out _____ hope in the form of a beautiful gold dragonfly, healing some of the sickness and _____.

7. Explain what Pandora's Box was using 25 words or fewer.

Answers

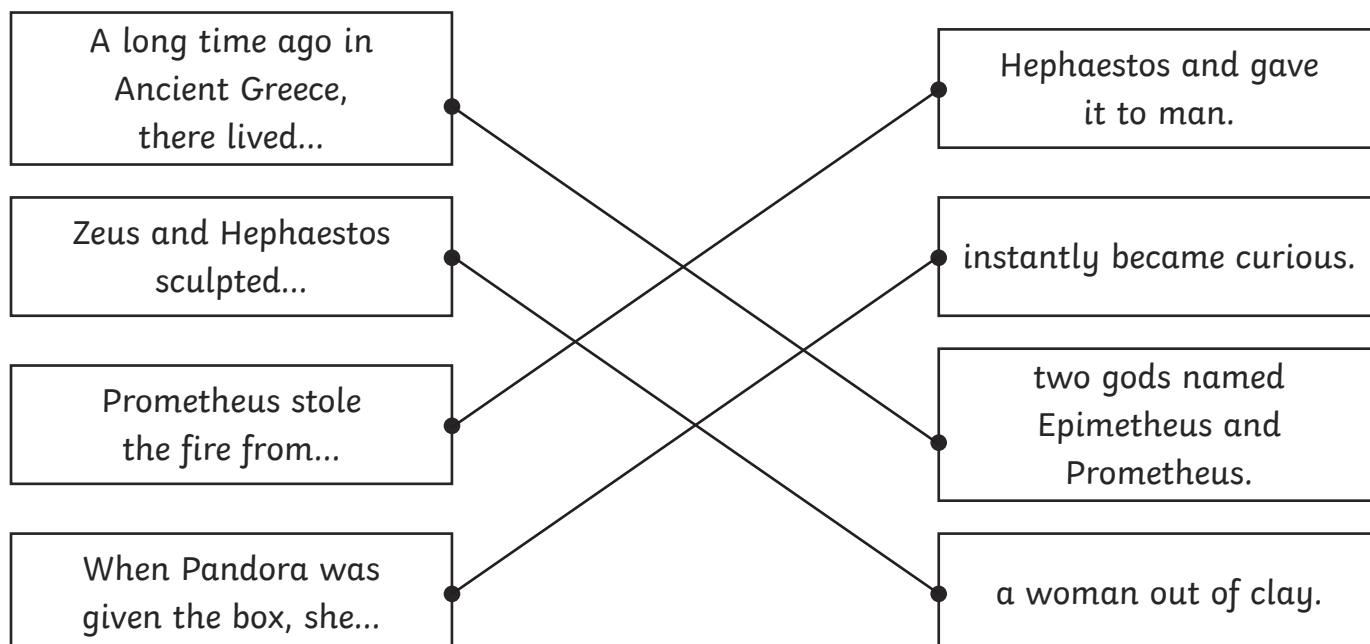
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☒ **Zeus**
☐ Epimetheus
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furious

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7. Explain what Pandora's Box was using 25 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Pandoras box was a box full of horrible things that Zeus planned for Pandora to unleash on the world as a punishment.