



TEACH YOURSELF CLASSICS  
AFFORDABLE RESOURCES FOR STUDYING ANTIQUITY

# CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY

## Description:

This topic guide for beginners offers people a solid foundation in Greek and Roman mythology for cultural literacy. Cultural literacy, or the ability to recognize and use myths in different contexts, will be formed by basic knowledge of Greek and Roman mythology as well as critical engagement with several literary classics. This topic requires close reading of primary texts in translation.

## Recommended Reading:

Hesiod's [Works and Days](#) and [Theogony](#).

[Homeric Hymns](#).

Euripides' [Bacchae](#).

Sophocles' [Oedipus The King](#).

Euripides' [Hippolytus](#).

Ovid's [Metamorphoses](#).

[The Complete World of Greek Mythology](#). Buxton. Thames & Hudson, 2004. ISBN-13: 978-0500251218

## Topics:

1) Introduction to Mythology

What is Mythology?: Buxton (6-15)

2) Origin and Divine Order

Hesiod's Theogony (60-103), Met. 1, Buxton (16-53, 68-103)

3) The Olympians

Homeric Hymn to Demeter

Homeric Hymn to Apollo, Homeric Hymn to Hermes

4) Human Foundations

Hesiod's Works and Days, Met 2, Buxton (54-67), Met 3

5) Thebes

Euripides' Bacchae

Sophocles' Oedipus Tyrannus, Buxton (162-169)

6) Heroes

Bellerophon and Perseus: Met 4-5

Hercules: Met 9, Buxton (104-105, 114-123, 160-161)

7) Heroic Groups

Argonauts, Calydonian Boar Hunt: Met 8

Jason and Medea: Met 7, Theseus: Met 8

8) Aftermath

Hippolytus, Buxton (124-129)

Orpheus & The Underworld: Met 10, Buxton (106-13, 206-215)

9) Causes of the Trojan War

Family Curses, ala Pelops: Met 10, Buxton (148-159)

Peleus and Thetis: [Catullus 64](#)

10) Trojan War

[Homer's Iliad](#), Buxton (130-147, 200-205)

Met 12-13

11) Return From the Trojan War

Odysseus: Met 14, [Homer's Odyssey](#)

The Fall of the House of Atreus: Aeschylus' [Oresteia](#)

12) Roman Foundation Myths

Aeneas: Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite, Met 14

Romulus and Remus: Met 14

Apotheosis: Met 15, Buxton (216-225)