

Mythological Creatures

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Problem Question:

What's the role of creatures in Greco-Roman mythology?

OBJECTIVES

General objective:

To understand the impact of Greek beliefs in mythology (Greek)

Specific Objectives:

- To specify the types of creatures and divine beings.
- To understand the main characteristics in which Greco-Roman mythology is based on.
- To explain mythological creatures precisely.

JUSTIFICATION:

This project is important because the integrants of the group are going to solve the doubts they had about this topic. The group is intrigued to know and understand how this works, and to do that, they are trying to collect the main ideas and details that can solve this questions. This group's integrants are going to bring together many ideas and fascinating beliefs to make a complete work for people to understand these myths.

Introduction

Since they were little, they heard about legendary, also known as mythological creatures.

The movies about the Greek mythology where these creatures were the main characters, the big enemy, the god's best friends or telling them about this topic in the news, saying that they found the skeleton of a hybrid between a human and a horse.

This mythology has made a huge impact in everyone's daily lives, even if they don't notice it. These topic causes restlessness in the society because they don't know what really happened or if they even existed.

Due to the variety of theories about the existence of these fabulous beasts, the group will talk about some of this famous theories and also making their own conclusions about this topic.

Mythology Definition

The mythology is a way to express the beliefs and cultures of times before us. It is a recollecting of myths, a feature of every culture. They are manifestations of psychological, cultural, or societal truths, rather than as inaccurate historical accounts.

~*Mythology*, Wikipedia the free encyclopedia.-*Define mythology*,Dictionary.com

- **Greek Mythology**

Greek mythology is the body of myths and teachings that belong to the ancient Greeks, concerning their gods and heroes, the nature of the world, and the origins and significance of their own cult and ritual practices. Greek mythology has had an extensive influence on the culture, arts, and literature of Western civilization.

~*Greek mythology*, Wikipedia the free encyclopedia.

- **Roman Mythology**

They are mythological beliefs of the Italic people inhabiting the region of Latium and its main city, Ancient Rome. They adopted many beliefs from other cultures, like the Greeks, in their gods. They had a lasting effect in society, because now days we have rests of their culture.

~*Roman mythology*,Ancient history encyclopedia.-*Roman Mythology*,Wikipedia

Mythical creatures

- Their role:

The role of these creatures in mythology is to explain to people strange, weird or inexplicable events in a way they could understand, in a way they could associate their beliefs, their cultures and their problems. Usually people blamed these creatures the bad things that happened to them, the weather, the emotions and attitudes of other people, etc. They were also used by older people to scare or teach younger people a lesson.

- Their impact:

The impact of these creatures is influencing thoughts, fears, and actions, which make us what we are today, in small or big ways. They have also influenced the way we dress, our irrational fears provoked by other people, or even the way we write, think, or draw. They are the source of inspiration for artists in some paintings, or the main idea of a fantasy book, or film. In a simple way, they influence us in ways that we don't even realize.

Types of mythological creatures:

Banshee:

It's a spirit appearing as a frenzied old woman whose high pitched shriek prophesied a death soon to come.

Apart from family and friends, the being that cries more when a family member dies is the banshee. The origin of this being starts in Ireland, but has transcended to other cultures. For some time, they have been crying and shouting before our times.

The legend tells us that if there's more of one banshee crying, the family member is very important, normally the father.

The physical description is:

"She saw the face of someone looking from the outside. Her skin was very pale, and her eyes were red from crying too much. A white dress covered her body, and the wind moved her hair. She looked young, but the fear expression in her face made her look broken, broken by the pain. Maybe the moon rays ruined her face."

~Banshee, *fairy legends*. **(Book)**



~<http://leyendasycuervos.blogspot.com.co/2011/10/banshees-los-lamentos-de-la-muerte.html>

Centaur:

They are half-men, half-horse creatures that ran wild and unruly. They are usually described as a tribe, or a savage herd of horses and men. Their origins come from the most famous centaur, the civilized Chiron, the hero-trainer, son of Kronos. He trained the most famous heroes, like Jason, and others. The physical description of a centaur:
The part of their horse body is huge and knarled can be of the same colors as the normal horses; white, black, brown, with specks of different colors, and more variety. The human part is like a normal “savage man”.



~<http://www.theoi.com/Georgikos/KentauroiThessalioi.html>

Dragon:

They are giant, flying, fire-breathing lizards who often guard treasure.

For centuries, the dragon has been a representing figure in folklore in all cultures, and it takes an important part in the Greco-Roman one. In this mythology is considered a guardian of treasures and places, neither good nor bad.

The physical description:

Bright-Colored creatures, with the brilliant scales shining, very beautiful.

Some of them have wings, some have horns, and some have distinctive factors. Often impresses people with its beauty to then drive them to death.



~<https://co.pinterest.com/explore/drago>



~<http://monster.wiki>

monster.wiki

Marine creatures:

Mermaids: Sea creatures with the head and torso of a woman and the tail of a fish.

They are benevolent and love to sing, they are very beautiful, and always keep their promises.

Physical description:

“In Greek mythology, the mermaids were nymphs of the ocean, and had a woman's head and torso and a fish's tail. Their voice was so sweet that it attracted sailors and sometimes they found death in the sharp rocks.”

~Mermaids, *fairy legends*.

Sirens: Sea creatures, very beautiful, and dangerous. They are also very naughty and curious. Their voice is the sweetest melody in the world. BUT they are evil; they attract sailors to their death.

Description:

“In no other place in the world there is a larger ship cemetery as in the strait of Gibraltar. Thousands of remains rest in their waters in the sea floor, and not all sank in battles. Many of these fell under the anger of the sirens that tried to win the heart of the men with their songs and long blonde hairs. First they smiled at them with their human faces, and then showed them their body, to attract the curiosity and spill in their ears the venom of the seduction. These creatures wouldn't stop until they saw the ship sunken and the dead sailors.”

~Sirens, *fairy legends*.



Phoenix:

The golden bird that, at the end of its life, burst into flames only to be reborn again.

This bird is very unique, because their tears have healing properties, and their melody is very beautiful, heart wrenching, and emotional.

The phoenix is one of the most known mythical creatures, because of their beauty, and intriguing fire powers.

Physical description:

“The phoenixes light themselves up when their time has come, and then they are reborn from the ashes. Most of the time it is very beautiful, with its red and golden feathers. Fascinating creatures, the phoenixes. They can carry very heavy things, their tears have healing powers and they are very loyal.”

~The phoenix, *Harry Potter and the chamber of secrets*.



~[https://sandara.deviantart.co](https://sandara.deviantart.com/art/phoenix-282288129)

m/art/phoenix-282288129

Gods and other creatures:

Zeus: Jupiter. God of the sky and lightning.

Poseidon: Neptune. God of water and earthquakes.

Hades: Pluto. God of underworld and fortune.

Aphrodite: Venus. Goddess of beauty and love.

Artemis: Diana. Goddess of the hunt, the moon, mistress of wild animals.

Apollo: Febo. God of the sun, the prophecies and twin brother of Artemis.

Hephaestus: Vulcan. God of blacksmiths and fire.

Ares: Mars. God of war.

Hera: Juno. Goddess of marriage and family.

Demeter: Ceres. Goddess of crops and harvest.

Athena: Minerva. Goddess of war strategy and wisdom.

Dionysus: Bacchus. God of wine, parties and madness.

Hermes: Mercury. God of thieves, travelers, etc., and messenger of the gods.

Hestia: Vesta. Goddess of home, hearth and fire.

Hecate: Trivia. Goddess of magic and crossroads.

Persephone: Proserpine. Goddess of spring and flowers, queen of the underworld.

Satyr: Faun. Hybrid between human and goat.

Nymph: Nymph. Spirits of trees, rivers, lakes, flowers.

Gorgons: Medusa is an example. She turns people to stone with a glare. Her sisters are gorgons too.

Griffin: A creature with the body of a lion, the tail of a snake, and the head and wings of an eagle.

Hydra: The nine-headed serpent who grew two new heads for every one that was cut off.

Cerberus: The three-headed dog that guards the entrance to Hades.

Minotaur: The creature with the head and legs of a bull and the torso of a man, who guarded the exit to The Labyrinth.

Pegasus: The proper name of Bellerophon's winged horse, which became the general name for winged horses.

Hippocampus: Often called a sea-horse, has the upper body of a horse with the lower body of a fish.

~<http://www.gods-and-monsters.com/list-of-mythical-creatures.html>

Discussion:

Mythology embodies distinct mythological beliefs, stories and depicts. The mythical stories about these creatures were handed down from one generation to the next one, and were imported, repeated and experienced differently. Nowadays, it is no more concerned with the antique texts, study and the modern mythology where these characters are developed is “science fiction”. Next, these antique mythological creatures are reflected through a set of tales, legends and mythical stories. Moreover, the Greek people were the first who created deities resembling to humans and also other mythical figures. This antique mythology carries various themes and many mythical creatures. So, the role of the creatures in mythology was to explain events that happen in a way in which people could understand. Their impact can be noticed in how people thought and wrote texts.

Conclusions:

- This research explores the possibility that the impact this creatures caused, made the culture what it was when it lived.
- Can be concluded that the creatures caused positive and negative influences in the people that believed in them.
- It was verified the idea of the ancient Greeks and Romans really believing in these creatures, and that is how we still know some things about it.
- It can be concluded that Greco-Roman mythology was based in other cultures and influenced by some stories and exaggerated facts.

Cybergraphy:

www.gods-and-monsters.com/list-of-greek-gods-godesses.html

[Http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/mythology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/mythology)

Book: Fairy legends

www.theoi.com/georgikos/kentauroithessalioi.html

www.mythicalcreaturesguide.com/m/page/dragons+and+serpents

myths.e2bn.org/mythsandlegends/origin5532-a-mermaid-and-a-magic-comb.html

Book: Harry Potter and the chamber of secrets

<http://leyendasycuervos.blogspot.com.co/2011/10/banshees-los-lamentos-de-la-muerte.html>

<https://co.pinterest.com/explore/drago>

<https://sandara.deviantart.com/art/phoenix-282288129>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_mythology

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