



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
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From Panel to Pen: Using Greek Mythology to Create Graphic Stories to Enhance the Writing Process for Young Learners

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In this curriculum unit students will create **graphic novel** components based on historical references in order to explore how pictures tell stories. By introducing students to the stories and characters of **Greek mythology**, this unit integrates visual arts, language and arts and history, connecting social studies and writing objectives with the **illustrating** content of visual arts. The visual arts aspect focuses on the study of skills and techniques for creating **visual narrative** with **illustrated panels**, drawings that will be adapted to create **comic strips** or graphic narratives. These drawings will be used to retell the stories of Greek mythology, and in the process of making them, students will learn about a culture of the past. The students will use the images to help create a **written narrative** related to a mythological character of their choice.

This unit is intended to encourage **storytelling** and thinking creatively about the combination of pictures and text to communicate information, understand other cultures, and share stories of the past.

(Developed for Elementary Art, grade 3; recommended for Social Studies/History, Language Arts/English, and Library Science, grade 3, and Social Studies/History, grade 4)

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