

Greece and Rome Lesson 3

Orpheus and Eurydice

The Basics

Objective: To introduce the participants to a primary source that includes many aspects of ancient Greek culture.

Performance of Skill Expectations/Enduring Understandings: The participants will sit quietly while watching the video and be able to discuss the story afterward.

Prerequisite Lessons: None.

Estimated Materials Preparation Time: 5 minutes.

Duration: Approximately 15 minutes of instruction and video watching. Time for list-making is at the instructor's discretion.

Materials Provided: The *Orpheus and Eurydice* video. The video can either be shown from the CD in the box or brought up on the *An Artifact Speaks* website from this address: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/artifact/videos/greece>.

Materials to be Provided by the Instructor: A means of projecting the video for the participants. A place to record the list created (smartboard, easel pad, etc.).

Other Notes: None.

Concepts/Vocabulary

Ferryman: a man who transports people or goods across a body of water.

Procedure

Preparation: Prep the video for quick, easy starting.

Introduction/Instruction: Before starting the video, remind the participants to look for parts of the story that tell them about Greek culture.

Development: Have the participants watch the video. Make a list of all the things they learned by just hearing the introduction to the story and the story. This can include the following:

- What a lyre is, how it is made, and who created it (Hermes).
- Apollo is the god of the sun and of arts.
- Hermes takes the dead to the Underworld.
- The Underworld and Upper World are separated by a river.
- Maenads are followers of the god Dionysus.

- Nymphs are minor goddesses who protect nature.
- Muses are minor goddesses who inspire artists.
- Ancient Greeks buried their dead with coins on their eyes.
- Hades and Persephone are the king and queen of the Underworld.
- The constellation Lyra is named for the lyre of Orpheus.
- The Elysian Fields are a place where those who were good in the Upper World get to spend eternity.

Reflection: Generate short discussions with these questions:

- What was your favorite part of the story?
- What do you think happened to the Maenads when they died and came to the Underworld?
- Have you heard a story from another time or another part of the world that was like this story? Tell us about the story.
- Why do you think Orpheus turned down all the marriage proposals he received from the women who listened to his songs?
- Is there anything you would like to do as well as Orpheus played the lyre?

Assessment: Did the participants create a relevant and creative list of culture-related facts from the story?