

Name: _____

GREEK GODS SERIES

Ares



Although the astrological sign Aries the ram comes from his name, Ares was no sheep. He was the brave and violent god of war. Symbols commonly associated with him are warlike: swords, spears, and armor.

Ares was a son of Zeus and Hera. His sister Athena was also a war goddess, but a much less savage one. Although he had no wife, Ares had several lovers, including Aphrodite herself. He also had multiple children. The Amazons—a tribe of warrior women—were among them.

Despite his importance in epic Greek war stories, Ares was an unpopular god to worship. His savage nature was both respected and feared—with an emphasis on fear. Many who worshipped him did so through other gods and goddesses whenever they channeled his warlike nature.

His Roman mythology equivalent is Mars.

1. What do Ares's symbols have in common?

2. How are the Amazons related to Ares?

3. What is the main difference between Ares and Athena as war gods?

4. Which of the following is *not* a synonym for savage?

- a. calculating b. fierce c. uncivilized d. violent

5. Why might the Greeks have been afraid to worship Ares?

ANSWER KEY

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His Roman mythology equivalent is Mars.

1. What do Ares's symbols have in common?

They are all warlike.

2. How are the Amazons related to Ares?

They are his daughters.

3. What is the main difference between Ares and Athena as war gods?

Ares was much more savage than Athena.

4. Which of the following is *not* a synonym for savage?

a. calculating

b. fierce

c. uncivilized

d. violent

5. Why might the Greeks have been afraid to worship Ares?

Answers will vary: He was violent and they didn't want his attention.