**Lesson 1**

**Lesson Title:** Brief Introduction to Greek Mythology

**Subject Area and Grade Level:** 4th Grade Social Studies, Art

**Approximate time/length of lesson:**

Lesson 1A (Jan 18): 1.5 hour for lesson

Additional Time: 5 days of computer lab time

Character Poster homework

Lesson 1B (Feb 8): 3 hours for presentations and "Family Tree"

**Part 1**

**State Content Standards**

**Social Sciences: Historical Thinking:** Use multiple perspectives, primary sources, context, and reasoning skills to understand the significance of events, people, ideas and institutions.

* 4.5 Distinguish between fact and fiction in historical accounts by comparing documentary sources on historical figures and events with fictional characters and events in stories.

**Art: Create, Present, and Perform:** Create, present and perform works of art

* AR.05.CP.01 Use experiences, imagination, observations, essential elements and organizational principles to achieve a desired effect when creating, presenting and/or performing works of art.

**Assessments:** Power Point Presentations; Reading Journal Entries; Character Posters; Exit Slips

**Instructional Strategy/ies:** Research; Presentations; Technology

**Modification/Adaptations:** Because some of my students have a harder time staying focused, I want to make sure the first lesson of this unit really excites them so I want to give them the opportunity to make the information their own. In addition, some of the students may have a hard time finding the right information during their research and creating their Power Point and may need a bit of teacher help time in the lab.

**Part 2**

1. **Housekeeping/Material Details**: I need yarn to connect the gods/goddesses on the "Family Tree" and papers for place holders on the bulletin board. I need comparison chart paper for comparison of myths, legends, and fairy tales. I need the Greek Myths book to read from. I have created a roster where I assigned each student a research subject. Each student will need an assignment sheet with necessary information and space for notes and the links to the approved websites for research. Each student will need a piece of paper for their character poster. Reading Journal for notes during presentations.
2. **Purpose:** To get the most out of the text we are reading, students need some information on Greek Mythology. This lesson will give an overview of the gods, goddesses, and other characters and explain the original purpose of the Greek myths. In 1B, Students will become experts on one Greek mythology character and will share their knowledge to teach the class about their character using a PowerPoint. The entire class will learn about twenty-four characters in total by learning from each other.
3. **Objectives:**

Objective 1: The students will explain in depth details on one character in Greek mythology by creating an informational PowerPoint presentation to share with the class and a brief Character Poster to put on the bulletin board.

Objective 2: The students will demonstrate a broad understanding of characters in Greek mythology by completing the informational pages in their Reading Journals as their classmates give their presentations.

1. **Procedure**:

**Lesson 1A**

**Open:**

Mythology Reading 10 minutes

**Body:**

a) What is a myth? 15 minutes

I will discuss what a myth is and how it differs from legends and fairy tales, which they have learned about in previous lessons.

b) Why did the Greeks create their myths? 10 minutes

Explain that the people from Ancient Greece created the gods, goddesses, and other characters to explain the occurrences in everyday life.

c) Family Tree Introduction 10 minutes

Show them the bulletin board with all the blank spaces for posters and the yarn showing connections and explain that we will fill in the spaces with their character posters as we learn more about the gods and goddesses and their relationships and that the other character posters will go around the edges.

d) Mythology Reading 15 minutes

**Close:**  30 minutes

Review what a myth is and why the ancient Greeks created them and assign research topics to each student explaining what they are expected to include in their presentations and which websites they should use.

**Lab Time:** 5 days of 1 hour lab time

a) Spend two to three days researching their topic

b) Spend two to three days creating a Power Point on their topic

**Homework:**

Create a Character Poster with the name of the character, a picture of the character, and a brief description to be posted on the "Family Tree" bulletin board.

**Lesson 1B**

**Open:** 5 minutes

Review what components they should take out of each presentation and record in their Reading Journals.

**Body:**

Presentations: 2.5 hours

Give a five minute maximum presentation to the class to teach them about their assigned topic while the other students take notes in their Reading Journals.

**Close:** 25 minutes

After presentations, we will put the character posters in the appropriate locations and discuss why the poster goes where it goes, respectfully disagreeing where necessary and assisting each other in finding the correct placement.

**Part 3**

**Resources:**

1. http://genealogy.lovetoknow.com/Family\_Tree\_of\_Greek\_Gods\_and\_Goddesses
2. "D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths" to read some of the real myths to the class.