

## Aphrodite, goddess of love and beauty

In Ancient Greek religion, people worshipped many different Gods. Aphrodite was the daughter of Zeus who lived on Mount Olympus. She was the goddess of love and beauty. Her symbols include doves, sparrows and swans.

### Powers

Aphrodite and her son Eros were in charge of making people fall in love. When Eros fired an arrow at someone, Aphrodite could make them fall in love with the next person they saw. Aphrodite was also judged to be the most beautiful of all the goddesses.

### Personality

Aphrodite was quite a jealous goddess and thought it was extremely important that all mortals knew of her beauty. She was married to Hephaestus, the god of blacksmiths and volcanoes, but she was not happy as she had been forced to marry him. Aphrodite was secretly in love with Ares, the god of war.

### Interesting facts

Rather than being born, Aphrodite rose up out of sea foam as an adult- she was never a child. Both the Greeks and the Romans knew the story of her birth and worshipped her, but the Romans knew her as Venus. The planet Venus is named after her. This planet is visible as the brightest object in the sky (other than the moon) and can be seen in the morning and evening. It is known as the Morning Star.

Aphrodite often used her powers of love to involve herself in the lives of mortals. Therefore, she was well-known in ancient religions and is considered one of the twelve gods of Olympus.



Ancient Greek  
statue of  
Aphrodite



'The Birth of  
Venus' painted by  
Botticelli in the  
1480s.