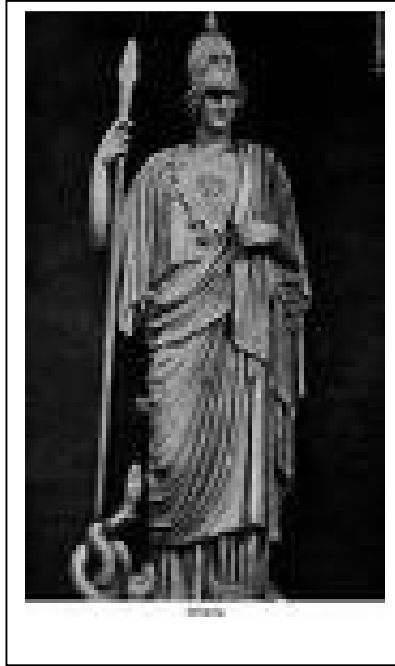


# Greek Gods and Goddesses

The Greeks worshiped many different things. Many of the best known gods had their temples built for them. Of 460 b.c. the hero Perseus had just cut off the head of Gorgan Medusa. One gaze from Medusa could turn a person to stone which is why Perseus cut off her head.

Nike was the Greek goddess of victory. Demeter was the goddess of growing plants. Together Demeter and Dionysus were considered gods of harvest. Zeus was king of the all the gods and goddesses. He was also god of the sky. Zeus had affairs with 8 goddesses other than his wife Hera. Aphrodite was the goddess of love. The Bronze head of Aphrodite comes from Turkey. Apollo could foretell the future. Apollo a great young deity, was twins with Artemis the Goddess of hunting. Apollo was the god of music and light. He also drove Helios the sun chariot across the sky. He had an even temper. Gaea is the earth.



The strange birth of Athena was a favourite subject for Greek vase painters. The town Athens was named after the goddess Athena.

Athena's favourite bird was the owl and her favourite plant was the olive tree. Her roman name is Minerva. Athena's parents were Zeus and Metis.

Athena was the goddess of wisdom and warfare. She was also the goddess of handicraft and strategy. She did not like to fight but when she was forced to she always won. She hated Ares and took pleasure in thwarting him on the battle field.

