

# The mountain of Gods

## Guidelines for educators

- **Context and the area of cultural heritage:** This worksheet explores Greek natural cultural heritage and focuses on Mount Olympus. The worksheet consists of three (3) exercises focusing respectively on: natural environment of Mount Olympus, its outstanding universal cultural value, and activities permitted under its protection framework.
- **Description and justification:** Olympus, the highest mountain in Greece, is an important monument of world cultural heritage, of environmental, historical and archaeological value. It has a rare natural beauty characterized by diversity in climate, vegetation, terrain as well as by a number of endemic flora and fauna species. It is therefore protected nationally, Europeanly and globally. Olympus' peaks are also known worldwide as the residence of the Twelve Gods and the Muses, a fact that made it the center of ancient Greek mythology and archaic epics but also a symbol of Greek culture. Untouched by time and human activities, it is a living myth that stands proudly over the centuries towards those who visit it.
- **Duration:** three (3) 45-minute teaching hours
- **Language level:** B1-B2
- **Age group:** 12-18

- **Prior knowledge:** basic environmental vocabulary (vegetation, flora, fauna, natural resources), use of nouns and adjectives, introduction to local and causal adverbs, to indicative pronouns, knowledge of present and past tenses (mainly Present Tense, Present Perfect and Past Perfect tenses) and imperative. Ability to read, listen and understand small sentences as well as to answer specific questions, orally and in writing. A previous virtual tour of Mount Olympus is also required (see below Material needed).
- **Thematic area, grammatical and syntactical phenomena (learning objectives):** In this worksheet students will learn ...
  - Vocabulary related to natural environment (ecosystems, species, monuments) and ancient Greek mythology.
  - Practice in reading comprehension.
  - Practice using nouns, adjectives, local and causal adverbs, indicative pronouns and tenses through presenting places, giving directions and justifying their choices.
  - Human activities in nature and rules for the protection of a natural area.
- **Skills developed (or benefits for students):** At the end of this worksheet, students will ..
  - Enrich their vocabulary about natural environment & its protection, about human activities in the mountains
  - Improve their reading comprehension skills
  - Learn to describe species and sites and express preferences justifying their choices orally and in writing
  - Gain knowledge about Ancient Greek mythology and civilization
  - Have a better understanding of the relationship between man and nature and gain environmental awareness

- **Material needed:** copies of the worksheets, pens/pencils, whiteboard/markers/eraser for the teacher to write down any useful and helpful information. A computer with internet access, as well as a projector to show any of the following audio-visual material before the implementation of the worksheet in order for the students to be properly prepared (if you are online, click directly to the following material):

- [Google Earth Virtual Tour of Mount Olympus area](#)
- [Google maps – Olympus Mountain](#)
- [Olympus Mountain – A view from above](#)
- [Tripment – Hiking in Olympus Mountain](#)
- [Mountain Olympus Greece Drone Footage](#)
- [Olympus: a mythical escape of mountain and sea](#)
- [Mount Olympus: the great palace of the Gods – Greek Mythology explained](#)
- [Mount Olympus-A mythical journey](#)
- [Climbing Mount Olympus](#)
- [Olympus-Enipeas Gorge](#)
- [Mount Olympus- Mytikas Peak](#)

- **References and resources:**

(if you are online, click directly to the following material)

**About language acquisition:**

Ampati, An. & Katsarou, Chr. (2012). Production of oral and written speech in students of level A2.

Center for the Greek Language / Routes.

Education of Foreigners & Repatriated Students

Haralampopoulos, A. (2000). The shift to the communicative approach of the Greek Language in Secondary Education. Thessaloniki: Greek Language Center. (available in Greek)

Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs / Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (2007), Teaching and learning in the multicultural school: teaching approaches and educational material. Minutes of one-day conference, December 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, Thessaloniki. (available in Greek)

Kitsa, A. (2006). Vocabulary Aid to support teachers of Greek as a second / foreign language. Part B'. Thessaloniki. (available in Greek)

Petropoulou, O., Kasimati, A., Retalis, S. 2015. Meaning and Evaluation of Educational Content in the 21st Century. [Book Chapter]. In Petropoulou, O., Kasimati, A., Retalis, S. 2015. *Contemporary educational assessment with the use of educational technology*. [ebook] Athens:Hellenic Academic Libraries Link. chapter 1.

Sapiridou, A. The cultural element in the Greek language course. (available in Greek)

Skourtou, E., Kourti-Kazoulli, V., Sella-Mazi, E., Chatzidaki, A., Androusou, A., Revythiadou, A., Tsokalidou, P., (2016). *Bilingualism & Teaching of Greek as a Second Language*. [ebook] Athens:Hellenic Academic Libraries Link. (available in Greek)

Tiliopoulou M., Phonological awareness in Greek as a second language.

### **About Mount Olympus:**

[Hiking experience](#) (In Greek)

[Mount Olympus Summits](#)

[Nezis Konstantinos & Nezis Nikos – Olympus, the mountain of Gods](#)

[Olympus National Park Management Agency: information about natural habitats and ecosystems, biodiversity, culture and sightseeing of Mount Olympus](#)

<https://www.olympus.com.gr/>

[Recent institutional framework about Olympus National Park](#)

[Spilios Agapitos Refuge A'](#)

[Virtual tour of Olympus](#)

[UNESCO World heritage list](#)

# Worksheet for the student

**EXERCISE 1:** Introducing Mount Olympus and its natural environment (45 minutes).

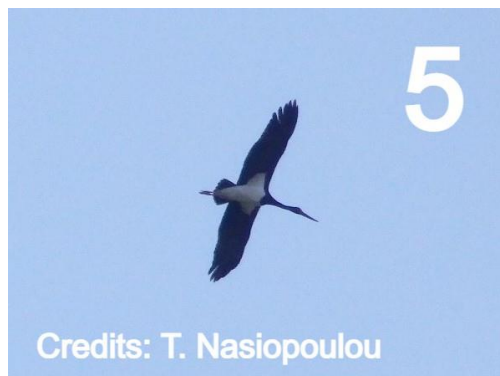
**Task 1:** Fill in the gaps in the text (Source: [www.olympus.com.gr](http://www.olympus.com.gr)) by choosing the correct words from the box.



vegetation	months	plateau	snow
peak	Greece	altitude	gorges
lightning		church	

Very close to the sea, Olympus is the highest mountain in (1)\_\_\_\_\_, rocky, with a circular shape and many peaks. Its highest (2)\_\_\_\_\_ is Mytikas (2,918 m.) which according to mythology was the meeting point of the Gods of Olympus. Other familiar peaks are Stefani (2,909 m.), known as the throne of Zeus from which he threw his (3)\_\_\_\_\_, Agios Antonios (2,815 m.) where the ancient Greeks had arrived to have eye contact with Mytikas and to leave their tributes to Gods, and Prophet Elias (2,803 m.) with the orthodox (4)\_\_\_\_\_ in the place where it is said that it was the temple of the god Apollo. Between the peaks, at 2,550 m. altitude there is a beautiful (5)\_\_\_\_\_ where the Muses lived. Steep ravines and (6)\_\_\_\_\_ begin below the peaks. The landscape is enriched by a rare phenomenon of four (7)\_\_\_\_\_ zones due to the wide variety of microclimates. At an (8)\_\_\_\_\_ of over 2,000 m. it is covered by snow for about eight (9)\_\_\_\_\_ a year with strong winds and very low temperatures, while at lower altitudes in some sunless ravines "eternal" (10)\_\_\_\_\_ is maintained throughout the year.

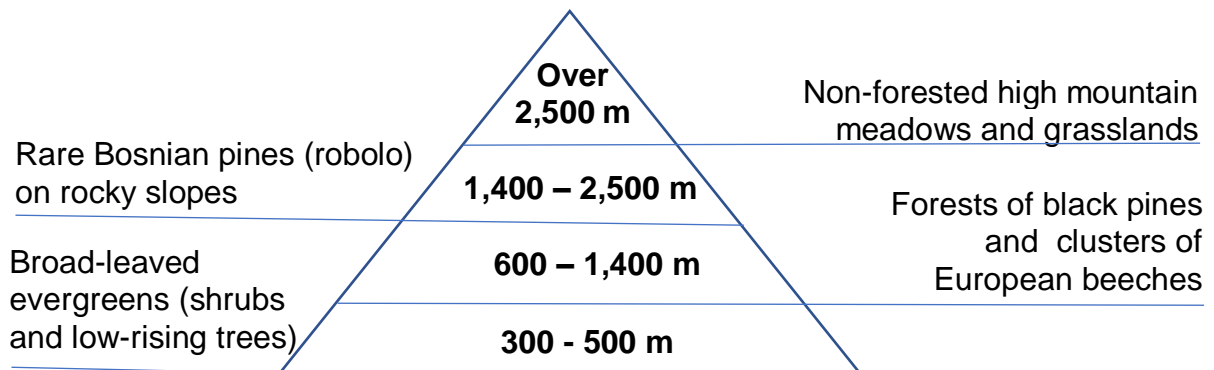
**Task 2:** In Olympus you can find ecosystems hosting various species of plants and animals. Match images to their description writing in the boxes the correct number.



Sources: [Spilios Agapitos](#), [Mount Olympus Refuge A'](#), [Olympus National Park Management Agency](#)

- In spring and summer Olympus is flooded by the colors of many butterflies.
- Beautiful wild flowers grow only on Olympus and nowhere else in the world.
- Birds including endangered species find refuge in the area.
- Herman's turtle lives at low or medium altitude.
- Wild goats, alone or in herds, climb on steep slopes.
- The salamander is a basic species of lizard.

**Task 3:** An outstanding feature of Olympus is the diversity of vegetation. Consult schedule and write inside the box under each photo the vegetation zone (altitude) to which you believe it belongs.










Sources : [Olympus National Park Management Agency](#) (text & photos), [UNESCO World heritage list](#)

**EXERCISE 2:** Read the following text about the cultural value of Olympus mountain and do the tasks below (Duration: 45 minutes).

The shape of Olympus and its high and steep peaks usually covered by fog and clouds that bring storms have fascinated people since prehistoric times. In combination with its natural beauty, it always aroused curiosity and admiration. That



is why ancient Greeks chose this mountain as a place of residence and worship of their 12 Gods. Poets, writers and painters faced its mystery with awe. Due to the sanctity of the place, human settlements and economic activities were limited to its foothills. Its peaks remained barren for many years, until August 2, 1913 when the highest peak

in Greece, Mytikas, was conquered. The respect of man for this mountain and their harmonious coexistence is confirmed by the existing monuments. Archaeological finds that were dedicated to the gods, the old Orthodox Monastery of Saint Dionysios, built in the gorge of Enipeas and very close to it the cave where the Saint lived, as well as the only Christian Orthodox church in the world built at an altitude of 2,803 m. Over the years, Olympus played an important role in the history of Greece, being a refuge in wars, while today it is a popular meeting point for walkers and nature lovers from all over the world.



Sources of the text: [Olympus National Park Management Agency](#), [UNESCO World heritage list](#), [Όλυμπος | Olympus.com.gr](#) / Photos available at: [Spilios Agapitos, Mount Olympus Refuge A'](#)



**Task 1:** Tick "TRUE" or "FALSE" at the table below.

	TRUE	FALSE
I. A weather feature of the peaks is fog and storms		
II. Ancient Greeks worshiped the 12 Gods		
III. People created villages on the mountain		
IV. Its highest peak was conquered at the beginning of the 20th century		
V. Olympus is not a very popular mountain		

**Task 2:** Answer the following questions.

Since when do human findings date?

.....

Who was inspired by the mystery of Mount Olympus?

.....

Why was it difficult to conquer its peaks?

.....

Which monastery was built in the gorge of Enipeas?

.....

Which important role did Mount Olympus play in history?

.....

**EXERCISE 3:** You and your friends decide to visit the mountain of the Gods. You consult a special mountain instructor in order to inform you and prepare your trip. (Duration: 45 minutes).

**Task 1:** Carefully read the leaflet given to you by the mountain instructor.

### Did you know that...



Olympus is a National Park and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and is protected at local, European and world level.

Cutting down trees, removal of soil, collecting bushes, plants or seeds as well as the disturbance and destruction of wildlife are prohibited.



Lighting of fire, outdoor camping



and the dumping of garbage are also prohibited.



You should wear comfortable walking clothes and shoes and have the necessary equipment.

There are eight refuges operating on Olympus which cover the needs of visitors, hikers, walkers, climbers and mountaineers.



There are over 10 routes with varying degrees of difficulty. Some of them are part of the European Highway Trail known as "E4"

Avoid climbing during the winter months as there is a risk of snow slipping.



**On our return we take only memories and photos!**

Source : [Olympus National Park Management Agency](#)

**Task 2:** After a brief class discussion on the leaflet instructions, fill in the following questionnaire given to you by the mountain instructor. Present the results to the class in order for you all to have the best possible preparation for your trip.

1. Have you ever been to a mountain before? If yes, where?

.....

2. Did you know that Olympus was the residence of the 12 ancient Greek gods?

If yes, which was your source?

.....

3. What fascinates you most about Olympus? Check the boxes.

- Mythology
- Animals
- Climate
- Plants and forests
- Steep peaks
- Diverse landscapes

4. What activity would you be interested in? Check the boxes.

- Trekking
- Hiking
- Birdwatching
- Wildlife photography
- Rock climbing
- Paragliding
- Cycling

5. Here is a checklist of basic equipment. Check what you have.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Small backpack
<input type="checkbox"/>	Waterproof / windproof jacket
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fleece jacket
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mountaineering boots
<input type="checkbox"/>	Two pairs of socks
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunglasses

<input type="checkbox"/>	Whistle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Headlight
<input type="checkbox"/>	Compass
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hat
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sleeping bag
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water flask

## ANSWER KEY

### EXERCISE 1

#### Task 1:

1. Greece
2. peak
3. lightning
4. church
5. plateau
6. gorges
7. vegetation
8. altitude
9. months
10. snow

**Task 2:** In the boxes from top to bottom: 3, 2, 5, 6, 1, 4

#### Task 3:



Over 2,500 m



600-1,400 m



300-500 m



1,400 – 2,500 m

## EXERCISE 2

### Task 1:

	TRUE	FALSE
I. A weather feature of the peaks is fog and storms	✓	
II. Ancient Greeks worshiped the 12 gods	✓	
III. People created villages on the mountain		✓
IV. Its highest peak was conquered at the beginning of the 20th century	✓	
V. Olympus is not a very popular mountain		✓

### Task 2:

Since when do human findings date?

→ Since prehistoric times

Who was inspired by the mystery of Mount Olympus?

→ Poets, writers and painters

Why was it difficult to conquer its peaks?

→ Because they were high and steep

Which monastery was built in the gorge of Enipeas?

→ The monastery of Saint Dionysios

Which important role did Mount Olympus play in history?

→ It was a shelter

### EXERCISE 3

**Task 1:** Explain any unknown words / Give the children any necessary information

**Task 2:** Explain some unfamiliar words to them if necessary. Guidance of the teacher for the discussion is needed.