

Name: _____ Teacher: _____ School: _____

Grade 2: Lesson 7 Neptune and Minerva

Neptune and Minerva

A Roman Myth

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Long ago in ancient times, towns had their own god to watch over their people. Neptune was the god that watched over Rome. He was also Lord of the Sea, and very powerful. See his trident? A trident is a spear that looks like a giant fork. His trident was like a wand.

Neptune was known for his bad temper. Trust me, you never want to make Neptune angry! He used his trident to stir seas, start storms, and fuel floods. He shattered rocks with it, causing earthquakes.

Neptune took his job seriously. He rode his horses over land and sea, watching over his kingdom. Neptune loved the attention and worship from his people. They built statues of him. Neptune soon wanted more people to worship him. So he looked for a town without a god.

One day, Neptune found a town that needed a god. But Minerva, goddess of wisdom, found the town the same day. What were the townspeople to do?

“We get two?” the people whispered to each other. “What do we do?”

Now, two gods might seem like a good idea. But gods are not very good at sharing. It is also unwise to anger a god. So the townspeople weren’t sure what to do. Minerva, who was quite wise, had an idea. She suggested that she and Neptune each give the town a gift. The gift that the town liked best would decide the winner.

Neptune tapped the side of a mountain with his trident. Water flowed from the rock, creating a cool stream. The townspeople cheered. Fresh water was hard to find near the salty sea. The people ran to the stream. They took handfuls to drink.

“SLURP, SPLURT! GLURP, SQUIRT!” could be heard from the people. Everyone who sipped from the stream ended up spitting out the water. The stream was SALT water!

Then Minerva waved her hand. An olive tree began to grow from a stone on the ground. The people ran to the olive tree and tasted the olives.

“YUM, YUM! GIVE ME SOME!” they yelled. The olives were juicy, meaty, and delicious. The olive trees would give the people food, cooking oil, lamp oil, and shade.

The people looked at Neptune in fear. Was he angry? But Neptune tasted the water. He began to laugh.

“Minerva, your gift is far better than mine,” said Neptune. “This water tastes like brine!”

And even to this day, Rome’s special tree is the olive tree.

Independent Practice

Directions: Use your note taker to retell the myth, *Neptune and Minerva*, in your own words. Be sure to use complete sentences and transition words. When you finish, go back and add an illustration of your favorite part.