

## WORLD OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY :: NYMPHS

## MAJOR CATEGORIES OF NYMPHS

Category	Attributes/Etymology	Notable Examples
<i>Naiads</i>	<b>Nymphs of Fresh water.</b> Naiads presided over fountains, wells, springs, streams, and brooks, as well as the still waters of marshes, ponds and lagoon-lakes. Very long-lived but not necessarily immortal. Frequently possess healing powers. Referred to as the daughters of Zeus, or of Oceanus, or of a river god. From the Greek <i>νάειν</i> , "to flow" (as running water).	Calypso, Daphne
<i>Nereids</i>	<b>Nymphs of the sea.</b> The fifty daughters of <b>Nereus</b> and <b>Doris</b> . Often accompany <b>Poseidon</b> and are always friendly and helpful towards sailors fighting perilous storms. Live at the bottom of the sea in Nereus' golden palace. They are particularly associated with the Aegean or Mediterranean Sea.	Thetis, Amphitrite, Galatea, Orithyia
<i>Oceanids</i>	Three thousand daughters of the Titans <b>Oceanus</b> and <b>Tethys</b> . Each of these nymphs was the patroness of a particular spring, river, ocean, lake, pond, pasture, flower or cloud. Oceanus and Tethys also had 3000 sons, the river-gods ( <i>Potamoi</i> ), who are sometimes included as Oceanids.	Ceto, Europa, Leucippe, Metis, Styx

## MINOR CATEGORIES OF NYMPHS

Category	Attributes/Etymology	Notable Examples
<i>Alseids</i>	<b>Nymphs of glens and groves.</b> Known to scare travelers. From <i>ἄλσος</i> , "grove".	
<i>Auloniad</i>	<b>Nymphs of mountain pastures and vales.</b> Often accompanied <b>Pan</b> . (From <i>αὐλών</i> , valley, ravine)	Eurydice
<i>Crinaeae</i>	<b>Nymphs of fountains.</b>	Aganippe (on base of Mt. Helicon)
<i>Dryads</i>	<b>Nymphs of trees.</b> Normally considered to be very shy creatures, except around the goddess Artemis who was known to be a friend to most nymphs. From <i>δρῦς</i> "oak".	
<i>Hamadryads</i>	<b>Dryads who were bound to their trees</b> , such that if the tree died, the hamadryad associated with it died as well. From <i>ἅμα</i> ("together with") + <i>δρῦς</i> "oak".	
<i>Hesperides</i>	<b>Nymphs of Hera's blissful garden in a far western corner of the world.</b> Heracles stole their immortality-giving, golden fruit for his eleventh labor. From <i>ἐσπέρα</i> , "the western country".	
<i>Limnades</i>	<b>Nymphs of fresh water lakes.</b> From <i>λίμνη</i> , "pool or lake".	
<i>Meliae</i>	<b>Dryads of ash trees.</b> Rhea gave birth to the <i>Meliae</i> after being made fertile by the blood of castrated Ouranos (like the Furies). They tended the infant Zeus in Rhea's Cretan cave. They were also sometimes associated with fruit trees. From <i>μελία</i> , "ash tree".	Melia, mother of Io.
<i>Napaeae</i>	<b>Nymphs of wooded valleys, glens or grottoes.</b> They were shy but mirthful nymph. They lived in. They are associated with Artemis, and often accompany her. From <i>νάπη</i> , "a wooded dell".	
<i>Oreads</i>	<b>Nymphs of mountains, valleys, ravines.</b> Associated with <b>Artemis</b> . After their father <b>Atlas</b> was forced to carry the heavens on his shoulders, <b>Orion</b> began to pursue all of the Pleiades, and Zeus transformed them first into doves, and then into stars to comfort their father. The constellation of Orion is said to still pursue them across the night sky. From <i>ὄρος</i> , "mountain".	Echo; Oenone; 7 Pleiades (including Maia, Merope)
<i>Pegaeae</i>	<b>Nymphs of freshwater springs.</b>	The Pegae, a group that abducted <b>Hylas</b> .