

APOLLO

Greek name Ἀπόλλων

Latin name Apollo

Name in your language

Parents Zeus and Leto

Role god of art, music, prophecy, healing

Home Mount Olympus

Attributes lyre, laurel wreath, chariot, Sun

Pets snake, raven, swan

Apollo was the god of the arts and music (that is, everything beautiful). He was also the god of prophecy: people came from all over Greece to ask for predictions of their future from Pythia, Apollo's dearest priestess; she worked in a temple devoted to Apollo, in Delphi. It was believed that Pythia's prophetic answers to the visitors came directly from the god Apollo. Being the god of the arts, he was the patron of poets and artists and his attribute, the laurel wreath, has become the symbol of the most gifted poets in the world. This is how it happened. Once Apollo fell head over heels in love with a lovely nymph, Daphne. Unfortunately, the nymph refused his advances: she fled across the Earth to escape him. Apollo did not give up and scoured the Earth following her. When she grew exhausted, Daphne stopped and cried out for help to Peneus, her river-god father. Out of pity, Peneus turned Daphne into a laurel tree and freed her forever from her unwelcome lover. Apollo, on the other hand, was devastated. Out of sorrow, he proved his love for Daphne by adopting the laurel as his sacred plant. From this time forth, the best poets in the world have been awarded laurel crowns, in memory of Apollo and Daphne's story.

