

# HERMES

**Greek name** Ἑρμῆς  
**Latin name** Mercurius  
**Name in your language**

**Parents** Zeus and Maia  
**Role** messenger of the gods  
**Home** Mount Olympus  
**Attributes** pedila / talaria, caduceus, lyre, petasos  
**Pets** tortoise, rooster

The god Hermes had very long and diversified job specifications. He used to perform many tasks. His full-time job was to carry messages of the gods, combined with the post from Zeus' personal secretary. Wearing his winged sandals, called in Greek pedila, in Latin talaria, and made by none other than Hephaestus, Hermes flew around the world announcing the will of the gods. Up-to-date in all the news of the world, Hermes often appeared gossipy. But Hermes' greatest asset was his intellect. He was a great inventor. It was he who invented the lyre, Apollo's favourite musical instrument! He crafted it from a tortoiseshell. For his wits, Zeus granted him a place among the Twelve Supreme Olympians. Being the first of all travellers, Hermes protected wandering people and souls. He was a psychopomp, as well, just like Hecate: he led souls to the Underworld. To make a long story short, he guided travellers, thieves, merchants, anyone who embarked on a journey.

**pedila/talaria** winged sandals  
**caduceus** staff with two intertwined snakes  
**petasos** a wide-brimmed hat with small wings

