

PERCY JACKSON BOOK CLUB

AGES

Children 8+ years

Teens/tweens

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Run a Percy Jackson Book Club and end the summer with a Percy Jackson Party! If your budget allows, offer a book to anyone who participates. Once the books have been read but prior to the celebration, have children choose their Greek god/goddess name and come dressed as that character (e.g., Zeus, Poseidon, Hades, Hera, Ares, Athena, Apollo, Aphrodite, Hermes, Artemis, Hephaestus, Demeter, Dionysus). Percy's Mother had a thing for blue food, so you could serve blueberries, blue corn tortilla chips, blue Gatorade, blue jelly beans, blue fruit roll-ups, and blue yogurt. For a teen adaptation, consider *Lore* by Alexandra Bracken or *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky* by Kwame Mbalia. Suggested runtime: 90 min.

ADAPTATION:

Tie a program to Artemis, Goddess of the Hunt. Many state wildlife or parks departments offer free archery lessons for kids.



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Image source: Shutterstock

GAME/ACTIVITY

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Activity #1: Create a God/Goddess Headband

Materials: Plastic headbands, cardstock, scissors, felt, glue, ribbon

Instructions:

- Draw a laurel leaf template on cardstock and cut it out.
- Trace the leaf shape onto felt.
- Cut out as many leaves as desired, and glue them to the headband.
- Add ribbon if desired.



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Activity #2: Battle with Poseidon

Materials: Kiddie pool or large tub, water, corks, rubber bands, toothpicks, colored paper



Image source: Shutterstock

Instructions:

- Use corks to build a simple toy boat by securing three corks together side-by-side with rubber bands.
- Once you have the floating cork base, push a toothpick partially into the center, so that it sticks straight up.
- Cut a triangle out of the colored paper for the sail, and “thread” it onto the toothpick by puncturing the paper at the top and bottom.
- Sail your boat across the sea (kiddie pool or tub).
- You can create your own Sea of Monsters for the boats to battle across by adding items which represent Polyphemus, Scylla and Charybdis, the Sirens, or Poseidon.

GAME/ACTIVITY

Activity #3: Percy Jackson Mad-Libs

Materials: Official Percy Jackson Mad-Libs are available online; alternatively, make your own using the books as reference.

Instructions:

- In advance, make or purchase Percy Jackson Mad-Libs.
- Have children call out different kinds of words to fill in the blanks and make funny sentences.
- Children could also play this in pairs.

Activity #4: Temporary Tattoos

Materials: Simple clip art (the more basic the better), printer and paper, spray bottle of isopropyl alcohol, hot water, sink or basin to hold the water, towels or rags

Instructions:

- In advance, research the history of tattoos.
- Share the cultural and historical importance of tattoos with the participants.
- Invite children to choose a simple clip art image. See Resources for a Greek gods clip art.
- Print images and cut them out, leaving about ½ inch–1 inch of border around the image.
- Spray the image with isopropyl alcohol from a distance of about six inches. Continue spraying until the image is fully drenched.
- Prepare a hot water bath, either by filling a sink with hot water, or boiling water and pouring it into a basin.
- Immerse the paper in the hot water for 3–5 minutes.
- Very carefully remove the paper—it will be delicate and rip easily!
- Spray your arm (or the place where you want the tattoo to go) with the isopropyl alcohol.
- Lay the paper face down on your arm, cover with a rag or towel, and hold tightly for 90 seconds.
- Lift the towel and peel the paper off. Voilà! You have a tattoo.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

The Battle with Poseidon is a good activity to take outside.

GAME/ACTIVITY

RESOURCES

Web

“Laurel Wreaths Three Ways” from *Small Talk Mama*: <https://bit.ly/3iaCm3N>

Easy cork boat craft from *RedTedArt*: <https://bit.ly/3hVADiz>

Percy Jackson Mad Libs from Amazon: <https://amzn.to/3hXDO9p>

Temporary tattoos with perfume from *Readers Digest*: <https://bit.ly/3fqDnmr>

Temporary tattoos with alcohol from *LifeHacker*: <https://bit.ly/34ITfA2>

Books

Percy Jackson and the Olympians series by Rick Riordan (children’s):

#1: *The Lightning Thief* (2005)

#2: *The Sea of Monsters* (2006)

#3: *The Titan’s Curse* (2007)

#4: *The Battle of the Labyrinth* (2008)

#5: *The Last Olympian* (2009)

Printables

Greek Gods/Goddesses Clip Art

