

Freya

Freya is an important goddess in Norse mythology. Her name translates as The Lady and she is associated with

fertility, love and beauty as well as gold and death.

- She has two daughters who are named Hnoss and Gersemi, and she has a brother named Freyr. Freyr is associated with good fortune, sunshine and fine weather and is said to be an ancestor of Swedish royalty.
- Freya wears a cloak made from falcon feathers, and rides in a chariot pulled by two cats. A boar named Hildisvíni is her faithful companion and she sometimes rides on it.
- She is a member of the Vanir, a group of gods associated with wisdom, fertility and magic.
- She also owns a necklace named Brisingamen.
- Half of the warriors who die in battle go to Freya, and half go to the god <u>Odin</u>.
- She has also lent her name to dozens of place names in Sweden, some of which suggest a public worship of her.

Odin



- Odin was one of the warrior gods (Aesir).
- He was the father of all of the other Norse gods and the first god to exist.
- The Vikings believed that Odin made the Earth and the sky, created humans and all of the other living creatures.
- Odin was an incredibly powerful ruler, and he could be be both stern and angry
- The Vikings believed that those who fought bravely and died in battle would feast with Odin and the other fallen heroes in the halls of Valhalla (or Valholl) located in Asgard, the realm of the gods.
- He kept two ravens, Huginn (Thought) and Muninn (Memory). The birds flew across the worlds gathering infoamtion and news for Odin.
- As well as being the god of war, Odin was also the god of poetry and wisdom.
- · Odin had one eye.
- · Odin kept two pet wolves, Geri and Freki.



Thor

- •Thor's name is linked to the word 'thunder'. It also gave rise to the day of the week Thursday.
- •Thor is an Aesir god (a warrior god) and he the son of the ruler of the gods, Odin.
- Thor is associated with many things. He is well-known for being linked to thunder, lightning, storms and strength, but he was also known as the protector of mankind and partly responsible for healing, fertility and law and order.
- He was married to goddess Sif.
- Thor is often described as having fierce eyes and red hair.
- Thor loved fighting using his war hammer, Mjollnir, a magical belt that made him twice as strong, and iron gauntlets (gloves).
- He also enjoyed feasting and drinking.
- · Thor rode a huge chariot pulled by two massive goats.
- follower of the Norse pagan faith and rejected the coming of Christianity.

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. Loki

- Loki is one of the most important gods in Norse mythology. He is able to change his appearance and has been a fish, a horse, a fly and even an old lady.
- He is the Norse god of fire and is also known for playing pranks and tricks. Some stories and poems describe him as being a devil or demon.
- His father was a giant and his mother may have been a giantess. He had several children, including Jormungand, a giant snake living in the sea surrounding the known world.
- Loki asked a giant to help build <u>Asgard</u>, one of the nine worlds of the gods. The giant asked for the sun and moon if he completed the work on time.
- However, Loki made sure that the giant did not finish the work on time. He led the giant's horse away, without which the giant could not finish the work.
- The gods became tired of Loki's jokes and mischievous behavior. They chained him to a rock where a poisonous serpent dripped venom onto him, his shouts of pain supposedly caused earthquakes.