



Aphrodite is the goddess of love and beauty. She is the laughter- loving goddess. Aphrodite is also known as Venus. She is the daughter of Zeus alone. Aphrodite was born from sea foam. Her bird is the dove. She is married to Hephaestus, who is the ugly and lame god. In some myths she is said to be the daughter of Zeus and Dione.

### The Myth of Adonis

There was a young and handsome man whose name was Adonis. Aphrodite, goddess of love and beauty, loved him. The only problem was that Persephone, Queen of the Dead, loved him too. They argued over who should get Adonis. Finally, Zeus had to decide. Zeus decided that Adonis should spend half the year with Persephone and half of the year with Aphrodite. One day while he was with Aphrodite he went hunting. He thought he killed a beast, but he had only wounded it. By the time Aphrodite got to Adonis, it was no use, she was too late. As cruel as his wound was, the wound in her heart was much worse. As he was dying she sang him a song. This story of Adonis is how the ancient Greek thought the blood- red anemone flower, got their color.