



Gods need mortals and cities to worship them.

Athena was called the bird goddess. She was connected to owls. She's often pictured with owls. Owls are thought to be wise. They can see at night. They have special eyes. So did Athena. Athena had gray eyes.

Athena gave olive trees to the world. Olive branches mean peace. They're Athena's symbols. Athena preferred peace to war.

Athena fought with Poseidon. They fought over a city.  
The two gods had a contest. They each gave the city a gift.

## Cross-Cultural Connection

Saraswati is a Hindu goddess. She's the goddess of knowledge, music, and arts. She gives humans the power of speech and learning. She's worshipped in India, Nepal, Japan, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Myanmar. She's a beautiful woman. She dresses in pure white. She rides a white swan. She sits on a white lotus. Lotus is a flower. It symbolizes light, knowledge, and truth. White represents purity. Saraswati has four arms. Each arm represents aspects of human personality. One arm represents the mind. One arm represents intelligence. One arm represents imagination. One arm represents ego. Saraswati's four arms hold special items. They hold a book, rosary, water pot, and musical instrument. Saraswati hangs around rivers. Saraswati was the name of a major river of ancient India. Saraswati's name means elegant, flowing, or watery.