Thor (Norse God of Thunder)

Thor’s enemy was a giant serpent “The Midgard Serpent”. The serpent represented evil, chaos and disorder. It was very big (it could stretch and wrap the whole world).

Ogres/giants were key characters. “Paganism”.

Warriors would pray to Thor before going into battle. He was the god of war too.

Thor’s parents:

Odin (god of heavens)

Jord (goddess of earth)

Nordic gods lived on top of a tree ‘Asgaard’. Midgaard was where the normal people lived. Hell was below it.

Thyrm, the king, had stolen his hammer and Thor dressed as a woman (his sister) to deceive the king into giving him his hammer back. He was effectively dressed in drag. (‘drag clothing’).

Thor was tricked in one set of challenges

Utgard-Loki, who was an ogre king, challenged him to complete three tasks

-Drink ale from a horn. He failed. It was actually the sea he was drinking.

-Lift up a giant cat’s paw. He failed. The cat was actually the Midgard Serpent.

-Wrestle an old lady. He failed. Old age can be defeated by no-one.

**You can’t defeat nature.**

**The final battle was Ragnarok, a battle to see the good v bad finally.**

**Good guys were the gods.**

**Bad guys were the giants.**

Thor fought the Midgard Serpent. Poison dripped on him after striking the serpent, and he died.

Parallels between Greek and Nordic mythology

-Thunder/lightning (Zeus and Thor’s main weapon)

-Fear of nature as the all powerful

-Snake as an evil character (Midgard Serpent (Nordic), Scylla (Greek), Hydra (Hercules), Hercules killed two snakes with his bare hands as a child, Medusa’s blood created snakes when dropping from the sky).

Thor’s Day is Thursday

Zeus Day is Tuesday