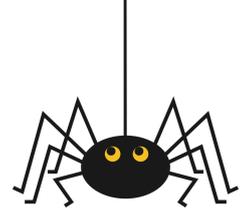


# BUBBLE BUBBLE BOIL AND TROUBLE



## AN INTRODUCTION TO WITCHES IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

Belief in magic and magical practices held a significant place in ancient Greece, Rome, and Egypt. The term 'witch' in the ancient world likely had a different meaning than it does today. Ancient witches did not fly on broom sticks or wear a pointy hat! Most witches in the ancient world were described as women who had magical abilities. They could cast spells, make potions, sell curses, foretell the future, transform people and animals, and even summon up ghosts. In ancient Greece, the goddess Hecate was associated with magic and witchcraft.

### WITCHY WORD SEARCH



AMULET   SPELL   HECATE   HERBS   GODDESS  
CIRCE   POTION   MAGIC   WITCHES   WITCHCRAFT



Ancient witches appear in many myths and stories, from the enchantress Circe in *The Odyssey*, to the witch Medea who used her power to help the hero Jason. Witches were viewed as being useful because they could provide help or offer protection, but were also seen as dangerous, and were sometimes blamed for causing illness and misfortune.



## POTIONS AND LOTIONS

Many witches in ancient Greek stories used potions made from herbs and other ingredients for their witchcraft. One of them was the sorceress Medea. Potions, known to the ancient Greeks as **Kykeon**, could be used to heal, make someone fall in love, protect you from harm, or poison an enemy!

**Kykeon** were often made using things found at home or out in nature. Do you have any of these ingredients at home? Tick all those you can find at your house.

- Cheese
- Barley
- Honey
- Rosemary
- Eggs
- Olive Oil



Some ingredients were believed to have effects if consumed on their own. Others had to be mixed together to have an effect.



JLMC 63.61, Mortar

Witches would use a mortar and pestle to grind ingredients such as herbs to make their potions. This ancient mortar from the Logie Collection was used to crush and grind food for cooking.



This krater from the Logie Collection was used for mixing wine and water at parties. On one side the sorceress Medea can be seen sprinkling herbs into a cauldron that contains a ram. Her potion will make the old ram transform into a young lamb!

Write a spell for Medea in the speech bubble.



JLMC 178.94, Calyx krater

## THE POWER OF POTIONS

The ancient Greeks and Romans believed that the spells and potions made by witches were powerful ... so they were very careful not to annoy someone they thought was a witch just in case! If you had a potion like Medea's that could make something new again, what would you use it on and why?

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