

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## HOW THE MYTHS AROSE

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage. Find the meaning of each word in the dictionary. Use the context to choose the best definition for each word.

The Greeks lived much in the open air, and dearly loved the trees, the flowers, the birds, the sea and sky.

They watched the clouds floating in the beautiful azure dome, sometimes in long lines like soldiers, sometimes looking like great curly white feathers, and sometimes piled high like mountains of snow.

They saw the sun rise, coloring the clouds and awakening all things on the earth; and they watched him sink in the western sky, flooding the heavens with brilliant hues.

In the quiet night, they saw the lovely stars come, one by one at first, and then in such numbers that their eyes were dazzled, and they thought of God and of the beauty of His works.

They listened to the carols of the birds and they believed that the brooks, the trees, and the flowers could talk to men.

The poets dreamed and sang about the spirits which inhabited all the forms of nature. All the people loved these fancies, and repeated the stories again and again. These stories, these beautiful fancies about nature, which to the Greeks seemed true, we call myths, or fairy tales.

1. azure: \_\_\_\_\_

2. hue: \_\_\_\_\_

3. carol: \_\_\_\_\_

4. inhabited: \_\_\_\_\_

5. fancies: \_\_\_\_\_



From *Round the Year in Myth and Song* by Florence Holbrooke