

# Vocational Lyceum of Kato Achaia



## Spinning and weaving III

ancient myths



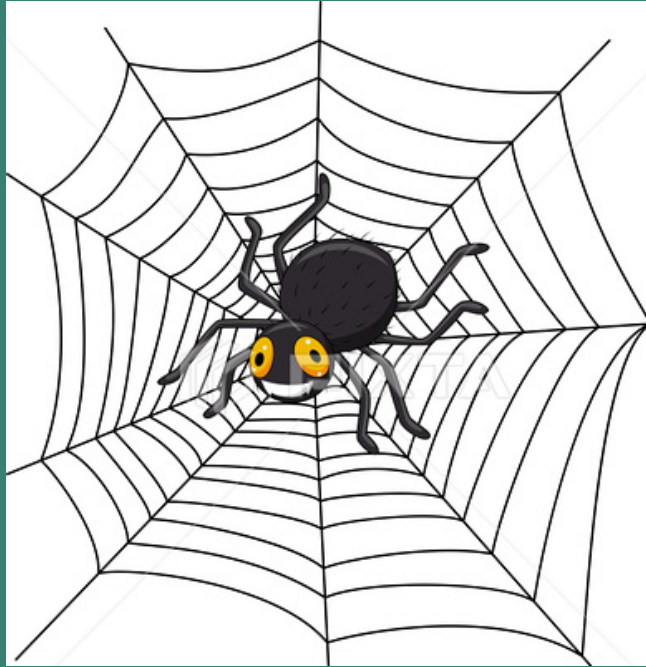
Traditional Crafts and Artisans

There are so many  
myths about weaving in  
Ancient Greece !!

Tell me one !!



# The myth of the Spider



Definitely it is not this!





## The myth of Arachne

Arachne (αράχνη) =  
spider

Arachne was a beautiful woman, and an extremely skillful weaver. Her beautiful weavings became famous all over Greece, and everyone believed that it was Goddess Athena that has taught her the art of weaving.

Athena was the Goddess of strategy and wisdom, but she was also the Goddess of women's handicrafts, like weaving and spinning



Arachne was always very proud to say that she had learned everything by herself and her weavings were far better than the weavings of Athena.

In a moment of arrogance, she dared to invite Athena herself to a weaving competition



*A painting from Francesco del Cossa. Crowd gathers around the loom of Arachne*

When Athena heard that, she felt insulted and became very angry!

She went from Olympus mountain down to the world of humans;

she found Arachne and accepted the contest.



The race was very hard!

Athena was making beautiful weavings, but every time she was finishing one, Arachne was coming with a more beautiful weaving.

In the end, Athena looked them closely.

They all have a total perfection!

Finally she admitted that Arachne was indeed better than her.



However, Arachne's arrogance and disrespect to Gods should be punished. So, Athena touched Arachne in her head with her gold weaving needle!





Arachne went crazy and she started spinning to herself for a long time...

and was covered with all the spreads remained...

Then she went to ceiling of her house to hang herself !!

Athena, decided to spare the life of Arachne,  
but she cursed her...

to remain hanged by the walls and ceilings of  
every house, and to spin and weave like this  
way forever.

At this moment, Arachne stopped to be a  
beautiful lady and was turned into an ugly  
insect.



## Epilogue

*The story of Arachne and Athena is one myth regarding the arrogance and the punishing of it, in Greek mythology.*



Tintoretto's Athena and Arachne at the Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy

*Mythology is connected with the norms in ancient culture and society: The story actually wants to show the humility and obedience, especially for women. Women had few rights in Ancient Greek society.*



*Thank you for your attention!*

*Looking forward to meeting each other !!*

