

Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum Mini Lesson Plan



Fifth Grade

Mercury silver plate miniature in Museum (left), full scale plaster in the Museum (left center), polished nickel at the Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford, Dearborn, MI (right center) and image of the 1960 Mercury catalog brochure cover (right).



Marshall Fredericks was commissioned by the Mercury Division of Ford Motor Company to sculpt *Mercury* in 1959 to promote the 1960 Mercury. The Roman god Mercury was a messenger for the gods and patron to racing and athletes. He later became the Roman god of commerce and merchants. He also conducted the souls of the dead to the underworld. He is usually wearing a winged cap, winged sandals and holding a winged staff that has two serpents coiled around it called a caduceus. In Greek mythology his name was Hermes.

Can you answer these questions about *Mercury*?

After reading the information about this sculpture, why do you think the Ford Motor Company used this Greek/Roman god for the name of their new automotive division in 1960?



Have you ever seen a caduceus (pictured to the left)? If so, where?

Describe the personality Marshall's sculpture portrays of this ancient god?

Make your own drawing of *Mercury* here.



Curriculum Connections

ELA
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.7

NCCAS
Visual Arts- Creating
4. Manipulate forms, materials and compositional elements to make meaning in a work of art.

Visual Arts-Responding
1. Identify and analyze cultural associations suggested by visual imagery.