

personal english



The Greek god Pan is reported to have invented the musical instrument known as **syrinx** (or **pan pipes**), which he named after a **nymph** he pursued in the woods. In an attempt to rescue herself from his harassment, she sought help from some river nymphs who turned her into **water reeds**. As soon as he saw this transformation, Pan cut the reeds and turned them into a musical instrument he could kiss and hold near all the time. This mythological anecdote nicely blends Pan's two chief interests: women (he is so **lusty** as to be often portrayed with his penis erected) and music. A yet further famous episode involving Pan is his **musical competition** against **Apollo**, who invented the **lyre**. **King Midas** was entrusted with picking the winner: as soon as he chose Pan, Apollo touched his ears and turned them into a donkey's...

Character #9

Pan

Greece



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