

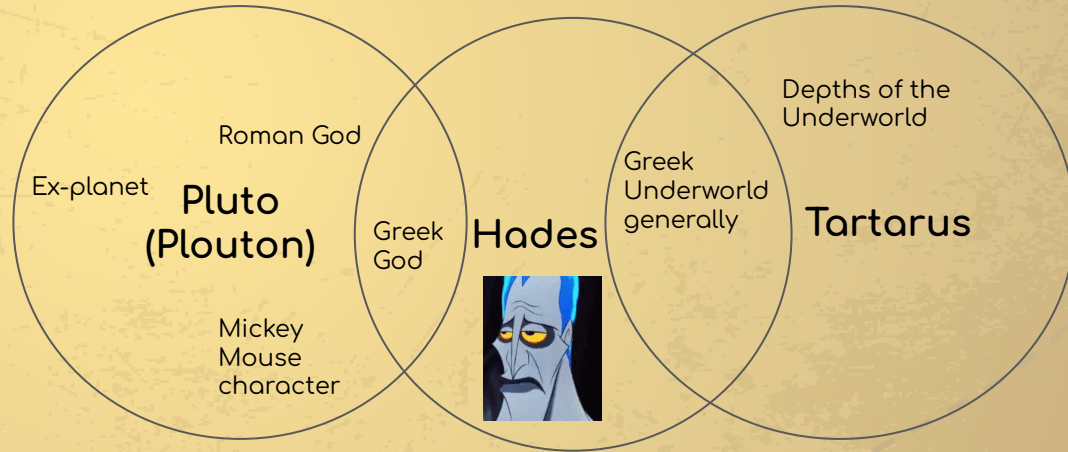
Classical Myth in Minecraft's Nether

Lizzie Strauss

Pre-Presentation Things to Know

What is Minecraft?

- Sandbox game involving placing blocks, killing monsters, etc



Essential to the Quest

In Minecraft

- Players need blaze rods
- Every speedrun includes a trip to the Nether



In Myth

- Most heroes journey to the Tartarus



<https://mythus.fandom.com/wiki/Cerberus/Gallery>

<http://classics-illustrated.com/heroes/theseus.html>

Location Relative to "Normal" World

Tartarus	The Nether
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Underground<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ "If an anvil of bronze should fall from the earth, it would travel / nine days and nights before on the tenth day coming to Tartarus" (Theogony, 724-725)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Underground?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Bedrock ceiling○ Inverse of the Overworld● Not underground<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 8:1 ratio implies a sphere, but all dimensions are horizontally infinite

This implies that the Nether is the next dimension over from the Overworld in the "down" direction and The End is the next dimension over in the "up" direction, although it is confirmed that the 3 dimensions are not supposed to be stacked vertically.



<https://mollyringle.livejournal.com/260379.html>

Regions and Death Rivers

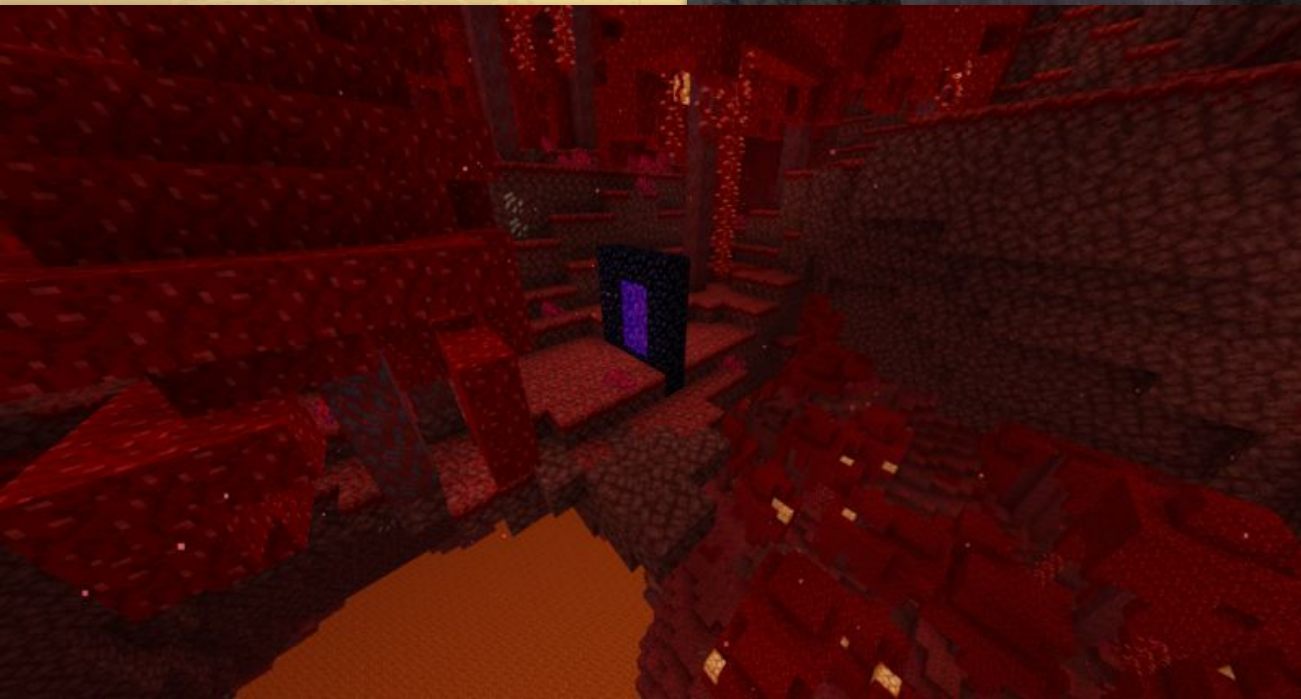
Tartarus	The Nether
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elysium, Asphodel, and Tartarus• Acheron, Styx, Lethe, Phlegethon (river of fire) and Cocytus (GreekMythsandLegends.com)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crimson Forest, Warped Forest, Soul Sand Valley, Basalt Delta, Nether Wastes• Lava lakes/ rivers



Alexander Litovchenko via
GreekMythsandLegends.com



Basalt Deltas



Crimson Forest

Quiz Time!

Which of the following is true for both the Nether and Tartarus?

- A. Many of the monsters you'll find here are related to pigs
- B. It is or is implied to be the realm of the dead/ afterlife
- C. It is impossible to leave once you eat anything



<https://mindfultravelexperiences.com/orpheus-and-erydice-love-ancient-greece/>

Quiz Time!

Which of the following is true for Tartarus, but not the Nether?

- A. One of the regions or biomes contains monsters with 100 hands
- B. It is rich in mineral resources
- C. All the flora here are fungi, not plants



"Since from the first, their father Ouranos was angry... with / Briareos, Kottos, and Gyges... / he kept them under the wide wayed earth..." (Theogony, 617-620)

What Kind of Borrowing?

Unintentional

- No mention of mythic inspiration in tweets or videos
- Can't be direct without also being intentional

Strong influence is undeniable

What do you think?



Image credits

All Minecraft images are sourced from the [Minecraft wiki](#). Other images cited in context.



