

Eleusinian Mysteries

General Points

Held in September in honour of Demeter and her daughter Persephone (Kōre)

Ritual

- * Proclamation of a truce - 55 days before Mysteries began so that people could travel in safety to Eleusis
- * Purified themselves in the sea **PIRAEUS**
- * 2 days later - Procession to Eleusis (15 miles north of Athens)
- * Wooden statue of **Iakkhos** - at head of procession - Crowds shouted insults - intended to avert bad luck
- * Fasted and roamed - sang and danced
- * Hall of Mysteries, the **TELESTERION** - by this time in high state of religious emotion - saw Mysteries
- * TELESTERION could only hold 3 000 but believed up to 10 000 followed procession
- * Priest known as the **HIEROPHANTES** " revealer of holy things " began a series of revelations - the holy things were known as the **HIERA**
- * Consisted of " things said " , " things done " , and " things shown "
- * Only initiates **EPOPTAI** were allowed to see the " things shown "

