

Name _____



Theogony: Clash of the Titans

Once upon a time, when the world was still young, there was a vast and swirling chaos. From this chaos emerged the first beings: Gaia, the Earth, and Uranus, the Sky. Gaia and Uranus had many children, but their most famous were the Titans, twelve powerful beings who controlled the world.

Among these Titans, the strongest was Cronus, who was always afraid of losing his power. He had heard a prophecy that said one of his own children would overthrow him one day. So, whenever his wife, Rhea, gave birth to a child, Cronus would swallow the baby whole to keep the prophecy from coming true.

But Rhea was a loving mother and grew very sad. She didn't want her children to be swallowed by their father. So, when her youngest son Zeus was born, she came up with a plan. Instead of handing over the baby to Cronus, she gave him a rock wrapped in a blanket. Cronus, fooled, swallowed the rock, believing he had stopped another child from overthrowing him.

Rhea then secretly sent Zeus away to be raised on the island of Crete, where he grew up strong and wise. When he was ready, Zeus returned to challenge his father. With the help of Gaia, he gave Cronus a special potion, making him spit out all the children he had swallowed.

These gods, now free, joined Zeus in his rebellion against Cronus and the Titans, a great battle known as the "Clash of the Titans." After a long and fierce struggle, Zeus and his siblings were victorious. They banished Cronus and the Titans to the deepest parts of the Earth, known as the Underworld.

Zeus and his brothers then divided the universe among themselves. Zeus ruled the sky, Poseidon the sea, and Hades the Underworld. The sisters, Hera, Demeter, and Hestia became goddesses of family, harvest, and the hearth respectively.

And that's how Zeus became the king of the gods and how the world of Ancient Greek mythology came to be!

Reading Questions

1. Who were the parents of the Titans?
2. What did Cronus do every time his wife, Rhea, gave birth?
3. How did Rhea save Zeus from Cronus?
4. Who helped Zeus make Cronus spit out all his swallowed children?
5. After the Clash of the Titans, how was the universe divided among Zeus and his siblings?