

How Zeus Became King of the Gods

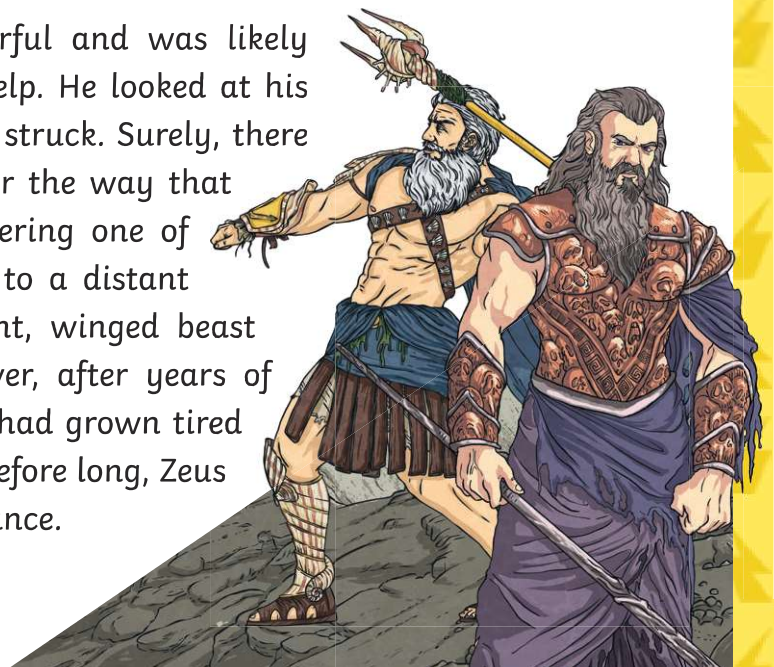
Cronus was worried. He had achieved a lot in his lifetime but how long could his power truly last for? Years earlier, he had defeated his own father to become king of the Titans but now that title felt threatened. Just like he had betrayed his own father, it seemed possible that his own children could do the same to him one day.

Seeing no other way to protect himself, Cronus immediately trapped his five young children in a prison. Scared for her own life, his wife Rhea fled to the Greek island of Crete. It was here that she secretly gave birth to a sixth child in a hidden cave. As the child grew, Rhea kept him hidden from the world. It wasn't until years later that Cronus would finally come face to face with his son, Zeus.

Many years passed and Zeus had grown taller and stronger each day. Rhea looked at her son and was filled with pride. She knew that if anyone could free her children from Cronus, it would be Zeus. When he told her that he was leaving, she was not surprised. Although she was sad to watch him go, she made no attempt to stop him.

When he reached his father's home, Zeus disguised himself as a servant and slipped a drop of poison into Cronus's drink. When Cronus took a sip, the poison flowed through his body and left him feeling confused. Before Cronus had time to recover, Zeus had freed his siblings. Together, they left and started plotting to overthrow their father.

Zeus knew that Cronus was powerful and was likely to defeat them. They would need help. He looked at his brothers and sisters and inspiration struck. Surely, there were others who wanted revenge for the way that Cronus had treated them. Remembering one of his mother's stories, Zeus travelled to a distant cave. There, he was met by a giant, winged beast who roared angrily at him. However, after years of guarding the same place, the beast had grown tired and slow so it was easily defeated. Before long, Zeus had broken through the sealed entrance.



Suddenly, Zeus found himself face to face with the one-eyed cyclopes. These creatures were siblings of Cronus. He had locked them away when he became worried that they would try to overtake him. Zeus explained the plan to defeat his father and the cyclopes agreed to help. They told Zeus that they were master blacksmiths. Together, they were able to create amazing, powerful items. After he had promised them that they would be free forever, the three creatures presented Zeus with a powerful lightning bolt.

Zeus practised with the lightning bolt for several months. When he was using it, it looked as though he could control the storms themselves. Eventually, the battle of the Olympians against the Titans began. The Olympians were powerful and intelligent, but the Titans were strong and towered high over the earth.

The battle lasted for ten long years before Zeus and the Olympians finally emerged as the champions.

At the end of the battle, Zeus and his two brothers – Poseidon and Hades – chose to split their rule over the earth. Poseidon would rule over the rivers and seas, Hades would become ruler of the underworld and Zeus would rule over the skies. As his new position took him higher than his brothers and the other gods, Zeus took the title of king of the gods and stepped into his new home on Mount Olympus.



Questions

1. What was the name of Zeus's father? Tick one.

- Cronus
- Rhea
- Hades
- Poseidon

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they occurred.

- Zeus freed his brothers and sisters from Cronus.
- Zeus became king of the gods.
- The cyclopes gave Zeus a lightning bolt.
- Rhea gave birth to Zeus in a cave.

3. What did Zeus disguise himself as when he went to his father's home?

4. Look at the paragraph beginning **Zeus knew that Cronus...**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'a bright idea'.

5. Fill in the missing words.

The battle lasted for _____ years before _____ and the Olympians won.

6. What type of animal do you think was guarding the cyclopes? Explain your answer.

7. How do you think Zeus felt when the battle was over? Explain your answer.

8. Read from **Zeus practised with the lightning bolt...** until the end of the story. Summarise the events from these two paragraphs using 20 words or fewer.

How Zeus Became King of the Gods

Doubt followed Cronus like an unwelcome shadow. He had achieved a lot in his lifetime – it was true – but how long could his power truly last for? He had already defeated his own father to take the title of king of the Titans but now his leadership felt threatened. In the same way that he had betrayed his own father, it seemed possible that his own children would try to do the same when they grew older. It was an unpleasant thought that needed to be dealt with.

Seeing no other way to protect himself, Cronus immediately imprisoned his five young children. Scared that the same would happen to her, his wife Rhea fled to the Greek island of Crete. It was here that she secretly gave birth to a sixth child in a cave far beneath the earth. As the child grew, Rhea kept him hidden from the world. It wasn't until years later that Cronus would finally come face to face with his son, Zeus.

Rhea looked at her son and was filled with pride. He was no longer the small boy who had clenched his fists in anger when she would tell him stories of his brothers and sisters who had been imprisoned. Now, he was a man who had taken his anger and moulded it into a plan for revenge. She knew that if anyone could free her children from Cronus, it would be Zeus. Although she was sad to watch him leave, she made no attempt to stop him.

When he reached his father's home, Zeus disguised himself as a servant and slipped a drop of poison into Cronus's drink. The moment that Cronus took a sip, the poison flowed through his body and left him confused and groggy. Before he had time to recover, Zeus had left with his siblings. Together, they vowed to overthrow Cronus.

Zeus knew that Cronus would defeat them as easily as a spider defeats a struggling fly in its web. They would need help. He looked at his brothers and sisters and inspiration struck. Surely, there were others who wanted payback for Cronus' mistreatment of them. Recalling the route from his mother's stories, Zeus travelled to a distant cave. He was met by a giant, winged beast who roared angrily at the man who dared to disturb its peace. It took little effort to defeat the beast who had grown slow after years of guarding the same location. Before long, Zeus had broken through the sealed entrance.

Just as his mother had described, Zeus found himself face to face with the one-eyed cyclopes. These creatures were siblings of Cronus and, like Zeus' brothers and sisters, had been imprisoned when he thought that they might try to overthrow him. Zeus explained his plan to defeat his father and the cyclopes agreed to help. Zeus had not known that the three cyclopes were master blacksmiths and had spent years perfecting the art. Together, they were able to create items beyond the understanding of ordinary mortals. After he promised that they would be free forever, the three creatures presented Zeus with a powerful lightning bolt.

Many months had passed and Zeus's skill with the lightning bolt had grown each day; it was as if he could now control the skies themselves. Eventually, the battle of the Olympians against the Titans began. The Olympians were powerful and intelligent but the Titans were strong and towered high over the earth. With both sides equally matched, the battle lasted for ten long years before Zeus and the Olympians finally emerged victorious.

At the end of the battle, Zeus and his two brothers – Poseidon and Hades – chose to split their rule over the earth. Poseidon would rule over the rivers and seas, Hades would become ruler of the underworld and Zeus would rule over the skies. As his new position took him higher than his brothers and higher than the gods themselves, Zeus took the title of king of the gods and stepped into his new home on Mount Olympus. A smile spread across his battle-scarred face; it was time for a new era to begin.



Questions

1. How many children did Rhea and Cronus have together? Tick one.

- five
- six
- seven
- eight

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they occurred.

- Zeus defeated the giant, winged beast.
- Rhea watched Zeus leave.
- Hades became ruler of the underworld.
- Zeus freed the cyclopes.

3. Where did Zeus get his lightning bolt from?

4. Look at the paragraph beginning **Zeus knew that Cronus...**
Find and copy one word which means the same as 'revenge'.

5. Why was the winged beast so easy to defeat?

6. **Zeus knew that Cronus would defeat them as easily as a spider defeats a struggling fly in its web.**

Why do you think the author has chosen to include this line?

7. Imagine that you are Zeus.

What would you say to the cyclopes to convince them to fight with you?

8. Do you think that the way the three brothers split the earth was fair? Explain your answer.

9. Would you like to meet Zeus? Tick one.

yes

no

Explain your answer.

How Zeus Became King of the Gods

Doubt plagued Cronus. Wherever he was on Mount Othys, it followed him like an unwelcome shadow. He had achieved much in his lifetime – it was true – but for how long would his power last? Defeating his father to take the throne as king of the Titans was a heroic feat but now his leadership felt threatened. In the same way that he had betrayed his own father, it seemed plausible that his own children would try to do the same when they came of age. It was an unpleasant thought that needed to be quashed.

Seeing no other way to protect his title, Cronus immediately imprisoned his five young children. Hearing the devastating news, his wife, Rhea decided to flee to the Greek island of Crete. It was here that she secretly gave birth to a sixth child in a cave far beneath the earth. As the child grew, Rhea kept him hidden from the world. It wasn't until years later that Cronus would finally come face to face with his son, Zeus.

Rhea looked at her son and was filled with pride. He was no longer the small boy who had clenched his fists in anger when she would tell him stories of Mount Othys and of his brothers and sisters who remained imprisoned there. Now, he was a man who had taken his anger and forged it into a plan for revenge. She knew that if anyone could liberate her children from Cronus, it would be Zeus. A tear rolled down her cheek as she watched his figure heading towards Mount Othys but she didn't stop him.

Upon reaching his father's domain, Zeus disguised himself as a servant and slipped a drop of poison into Cronus's drink. The moment that Cronus took a sip, the poison flowed through his body and left him confused and groggy. Before he had time to recover, Zeus had left Mount Othys with his siblings. Together, they discussed the tyranny of Cronus and vowed to overthrow him.

Zeus knew that, with the backing of the Titans, Cronus would defeat them as easily as a spider defeats a struggling fly in its web. He looked at his brothers and sisters who were hungry for revenge after a lifetime of imprisonment and inspiration struck. Surely, there were others who sought payback for Cronus's mistreatment of them. Following the path set out by his mother's stories, Zeus travelled to a distant cave. He was met by a giant, winged beast who roared angrily at the man who dared to disturb its peace. It took little effort to defeat the beast who had grown slow after years of guarding the same entrance. Emboldened by his latest heroic feat, Zeus broke through the sealed entrance.

Just as his mother had speculated, Zeus found himself face to face with the one-eyed cyclopes. These creatures were siblings of Cronus and, like Zeus's brothers and sisters, had been imprisoned when Cronus's paranoia that he would be dethroned had overtaken rational thought. Zeus explained his plan to defeat his father and the cyclopes agreed to help. Unbeknownst to Zeus, the three cyclopes were master blacksmiths and had spent years perfecting the art. Together, they were able to create items beyond the comprehension of ordinary mortals. After he promised that they would be free forever, the three creatures presented Zeus with a powerful lightning bolt.

Many months had passed and Zeus's proficiency with the lightning bolt had grown each day; it was as if he was now able to bend the stormy skies to his will. Eventually, the battle of the Olympians against the Titans began. The Olympians were powerful and quick-witted but the Titans were strong and towered over the earth. With both sides being equally matched, the battle lasted for ten long years before Zeus and the Olympians finally emerged victorious.

At the end of the battle, Zeus and his two brothers – Poseidon and Hades – chose to split their rule over the earth. Poseidon would rule over the rivers and seas, Hades would become ruler of the underworld and Zeus would rule over the skies. As his new position took him higher than his brothers and higher than the gods themselves, Zeus took up the mantle of king of the gods and stepped into his new home on Mount Olympus. A smile spread across his battle-scarred face; it was time for a new era to begin.



Questions

1. How long did the battle between the Titans and the Olympians last for? Tick one.

- a few months
- a few years
- ten years
- seven years

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they occurred.

- Zeus disguised himself as a servant.
- Rhea fled to Crete.
- The cyclopes gave Zeus his lightning bolt.
- Cronus chose to imprison his children.

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **Rhea looked at her son...**
Find and copy one word that means the same as 'free'.

4. Why did Cronus feel as though he needed to imprison his children?

5. Why did Zeus become king of the gods instead of Poseidon or Hades?

6. Argue that Zeus was right to start a war against the Titans.

7. Explain how the story might have changed had Rhea chosen to stay with Cronus.

8. Compare the characters of Zeus and Cronus.

How are they similar?

9. Who would you most like to meet? Tick one.

- Zeus
 Cronus
 Poseidon

Explain your choice.

10. Summarise the tale of **How Zeus Became King of the Gods** using 30 words or fewer.
