

Reading Greek

All About ZEUS
Close Reading Passage

Name: _____

Zeus was the ruler of the gods in Greek mythology. The Greeks considered Zeus as a father figure and a protector, especially of guests and strangers. Zeus was a sky and weather god, especially associated with rain, thunder and lightning. People thought of Zeus living on top of a mountain, and when he got mad he threw lightning bolts out of the sky at people.

The Greek gods Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades were the three sons of the Titans Cronus and his wife Rhea. The three brothers rebelled against Cronus in the War with the Titans and divided up the dominions of the Titans. After the war, Zeus became the ruler of the sky and heavens, Hades became the ruler of the underworld, and Poseidon was given all of the fresh and salt water. It was agreed that the earth would be ruled by all three gods, with Zeus as the King of the Olympians.

In Greek Mythology the principal Greek gods were referred to as the Twelve Olympians and lived on the summit of Mount Olympus which was protected by a special layer of clouds. Zeus sat on his great throne in the clouds and ruled over the Olympians with his wife, Hera, who was Queen of the gods.

Zeus' primary role was to watch over the activities of the other gods to ensure they did not exceed their powers. When Zeus got angry he hurled his thunderbolt at people who deserved it. He was incredibly powerful and was exceedingly terrifying when he was angry. Zeus was also wise, fair, and generous with his praise.

Although Zeus was married to Hera, he had several relationships with mortal women, goddesses, and nymphs. Because of his many relationships with women, Zeus fathered many children. His children included the goddess Aphrodite, and the gods Apollo, Dionysus, and Hermes.

As the King of all the gods, there are many myths about the mighty Zeus.



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