



Read each myth or legend carefully. Use details from the passage to answer the questions in complete sentences.

The Birth of Wise Athena



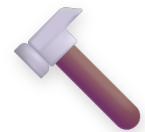
Long ago, in the grand realm of the Olympian gods, Zeus ruled as the mighty king. He was known for his power and his clever mind. One day, Zeus fell in love with Metis, the goddess of wisdom, who was even smarter than he was.

A prophecy warned Zeus that Metis would bear two children. The first would be a daughter, wise and strong. The second, a son, would be so powerful he would one day overthrow Zeus himself. Fearing this, Zeus decided he must act. In a moment of cunning, he tricked Metis and swallowed her whole, believing he had prevented the prophecy from coming true.



Time passed, and Zeus continued to rule. But soon, he began to suffer from a terrible, pounding headache. It grew worse and worse, until he could no longer bear the pain. He called out to the other gods for help. Hephaestus, the god of blacksmiths, came forward with his mighty axe.

With one swift, powerful blow, Hephaestus struck Zeus's head. To the astonishment of all the gods gathered, from Zeus's head sprang a fully grown goddess! She was clad in shining armor, holding a spear and shield, and her eyes sparkled with incredible wisdom.



This was Athena, goddess of wisdom, strategic warfare, and crafts. She was born not from a mother, but from the mind of Zeus himself, which is why she was always known for



her unmatched intelligence and strategic thinking. Her birth was a marvel to all the Olympians.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Who is the main character in this myth, and what is their role?

- (A) Zeus, the king of the gods who swallowed Metis.
- (B) Hephaestus, the god of blacksmiths who helped Zeus.
- (C) Metis, the goddess of wisdom who was swallowed by Zeus.
- (D) Athena, the goddess of wisdom born from Zeus's head.

(2) Zeus swallowed Metis because he feared she would bear a son who would one day

_____.

— continue writing on the lines below

(3) What does the word 'prophecy' mean as it is used in the story?

- (A) a warning about something that will happen in the future
- (B) a strong and painful headache
- (C) a secret plan or trick
- (D) a powerful weapon used by the gods

(4) Why did Zeus swallow Metis? What does this tell us about his character as the king of the gods?



(5) What do you think this myth was trying to explain or teach? How does its message connect to something in real life today?

