



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

Rhea's Clever Trick and Young Zeus

Long, long ago, before the mighty Olympian gods ruled from Mount Olympus, the world was governed by the powerful Titans. Cronus, the king of the Titans, had overthrown his own father, Uranus, and feared a prophecy that one of his children would do the same to him.



Cronus was a cruel and cunning ruler. To prevent his doom, he swallowed each of his children whole as soon as they were born. His wife, Rhea, a gentle goddess, was heartbroken. She watched as Hades, Poseidon, Hera, Demeter, and Hestia disappeared into Cronus's vast stomach. When her sixth child, Zeus, was about to be born, Rhea decided she could not bear to lose another one. She vowed to protect him.



Rhea sought help from her mother, Gaea, the Earth goddess. Gaea advised Rhea to hide Zeus on the island of Crete. When Zeus was born, Rhea wrapped a large stone in swaddling clothes, making it look exactly like a baby. With a heavy heart but a determined spirit, she presented the bundle to Cronus.

Cronus, eager to secure his throne, swallowed the stone without a second thought, believing he had devoured his last child. Meanwhile, baby Zeus was secretly taken to Crete, where nymphs cared for him and a magical goat, Amalthea, nursed him. He grew up strong and hidden, preparing for the day he would fulfill the prophecy.



Eventually, Zeus returned, a powerful young god. He forced Cronus to vomit up his siblings, who had grown to adulthood inside their father.

Together, the Olympian gods waged a great war against the Titans, eventually defeating



them and establishing their own rule, with Zeus as their mighty king. This myth explains how Zeus came to power and why the Olympians rule today.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Who is the main character whose actions drive the plot in this myth?

- (A) Rhea, the goddess who protected her son Zeus.
- (B) Cronus, the Titan king who swallowed his children.
- (C) Gaea, the Earth goddess who advised Rhea.
- (D) Zeus, the infant god who was hidden away.

(2) In this myth, Rhea had to trick Cronus in order to _____ .

— continue writing on the lines below

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

- (A) A secret plan or scheme. (B) A prediction about the future.
- (C) A powerful magical spell. (D) A difficult challenge or task.

(4) Why did Rhea trick Cronus? What does this tell us about her values?



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

