

L.I. I understand about the war of the Titans.

Lesson 4: The Titans' War

The War of the Titans

In the beginning, there was Heaven (Uranus) and Earth (Gaia). They had three sets of children. First were the Titans, giant human-like gods, led by Cronus. The second were enormous, one-eyed creatures called **Cyclopes**. Uranus feared that they would overthrow him as the King, so he imprisoned them in the centre of the Earth. Gaia and Cronus felt Uranus was too unjust and joined forces to overthrow him.



But Cronus' own reign did not get off to the best start. After being overthrown by his son, Uranus prophesised that Cronus would be overthrown by his own son too. So Cronus decided to eat his children before they could overthrow him - he did not want to meet the same fate as his father before him. After a while, Cronus' wife Rhea, whose children had all been eaten by her husband, decided enough was enough. When her last child, Zeus, was born, she hid him and tricked Cronus into eating a stone dressed in baby clothing instead!



Zeus grew up safe and sound, far away from Cronus, and when he was fully grown, returned home to overthrow his father and fulfil Uranus' prophecy. He began by freeing his siblings from Cronus' stomach. Grateful for being saved, his giant siblings joined him

in the war against Cronus. The Cyclopes made weapons for Zeus and his brothers, Poseidon and Hades. For Poseidon, they made a **trident**.

For Hades, they made a **helmet of invisibility**. To Zeus, they gave the fearsome thunderbolt. And so the war began.

But Zeus and Cronus' armies were too evenly matched. The struggle was so fierce and the fighting was so furious that it raged on and on and on. Zeus' mighty thunderbolts from the skies struck Titan after Titan, but still the Titans fought on. Atlas' massive arms crushed god after god, but still the gods fought on. The almighty battles between the gods and the Titans raged on and on, until the war had lasted for ten years.



Then, finally, Zeus had seen enough. He **unleashed** his full power: blinding light and deafening thunder filled the sky. The heat from his thunderbolts threatened to set the whole world ablaze. Zeus' siblings hurled boulders, a hundred at a time, at the Titans. This assault was too much for the

Titans to bear. Although the Titans were both massive and massively strong, the gods were immortal, all-powerful and in the end, proved undefeatable.

Victorious, Zeus cast the Titans out of Heaven and banished them to the Tartarus, the lowest region of the Underworld.

Zeus and his siblings took their place on Mount Olympus. Zeus and his brothers then cast lots to see which should rule the air, which the sea, and which under the earth: and so Zeus became the King of Heaven, Poseidon ruled the waves, and Hades ruled the realm of the dead.



Activity A: Label the following characters from the War of the Titans as either Titans (T) or Gods (G).

Zeus Cronus Poseidon Hades Atlas Rhea

Activity B: Tick the statements that are true.

1. a) The war between the Titans and the Gods was easily won by the Titans.
b) The Gods quickly overpowered the Titans.
c) The two armies in the Titans' war were evenly matched.
2. a) Rhea considered Cronus to be fair and reasonable.
b) Rhea was cunning and outwitted her husband.
c) The Ancient Greek gods did not believe in prophecies.
3. a) Saving his siblings from Cronus' stomach made no difference to Zeus' ability to win the war.
b) Poseidon was given his Trident by the Cyclopes.
c) Zeus was Uranus' grandson.

Activity C: write a sentence describing how Zeus freed his siblings from Cronus' stomach. Be sure to include the words 'persistence', 'victorious' and 'slashed'.

Extension: re-write your sentence including the names of at least three gods and two Titans – they must all be spelled correctly.

