

# Ancient Greece - Greek Mythology

by ReadWorks



*Greek god Uranus*

Have you ever wondered why ancient people created myths? Perhaps it is because they had so many questions about the world. They might have wondered why the sun rose. Or maybe they wondered why lightning and thunder happen.

Ancient people didn't always have scientific explanations for these things. Many of them told stories known as myths. These myths explained how things happened.

Many ancient people had myths that explained how the world began. These are known as creation myths. Creation myths are very important myths in a culture's mythology.

One important ancient Greek creation myth is told in a poem called *Theogony*. The poem tells how the world began. First there was Chaos. Chaos means complete disorder. Out of Chaos came the mother of much creation, Gaia. She gave birth to Uranus, the king of the sky. He became the father of many important Greek gods.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What are creation myths?

- A. stories about lightning and thunder
- B. ancient religious groups
- C. stories of how the world began
- D. Greek plays for theater

2. Why does the author describe the Greek creation myth in *Theogony*?

- A. to explain how Greeks came up with the idea for myths
- B. to contrast Greek myths with myths from other peoples
- C. to describe the only Greek myth that we know about
- D. to give an example of a specific Greek myth

3. Based on the passage, which of these answers would most likely be a myth?

- A. a diary entry of a real-life person
- B. a story about why it rains
- C. a news article about a war
- D. a report of a science experiment

4. Read the following sentences: "Perhaps it is because they had so many questions about the world. They might have wondered why the sun rose."

The word **wondered** means

- A. created or invented something
- B. were confused and scared
- C. gave an answer for something
- D. were curious and wanted to know more

5. The passage "Greek Mythology" is mostly about

- A. which ancient cultures were real, and which were just myths.
- B. which Greek gods were the most powerful and important.
- C. why people created myths, and the ancient Greek creation myth.
- D. how scientists today are learning from ancient myths.

6. What happens in the myth of *Theogony*?

---

---

---

7. What is an example of something a Greek myth might be about?

---

---

---

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

In *Theogony*, first there was Chaos; then there was Gaia; and \_\_\_\_\_ there was Uranus.

- A. yet
- B. fourth
- C. third
- D. meanwhile

**9. Vocabulary Word:** chaos: a situation with no order and total confusion.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence:

---

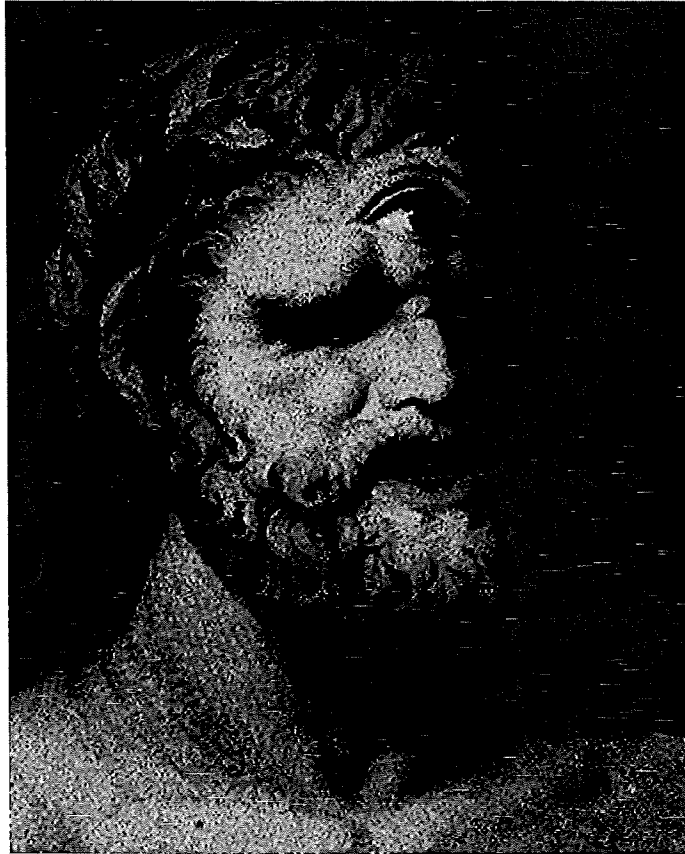
---

---

**Answers will vary.**

# Ancient Greece - The Cyclopes

by ReadWorks



*Polyphemus, a cyclopes in Greek mythology*

Do you know any stories from Greek mythology? Myths are the stories that the ancient Greeks told about their gods.

The Cyclopes are famous figures in Greek mythology. You may have heard of them. The Cyclopes were giants. They only had one huge eye, and it was in the middle of their foreheads.

The rulers of the universe hated the Cyclopes. They threw the one-eyed giants into the underworld. A powerful god named Zeus decided that he needed the Cyclopes' help. Zeus freed the Cyclopes from the underworld.

Out of gratitude, the Cyclopes gave Zeus gifts. Zeus received powerful thunderbolts that he could use as weapons. Zeus used his new weapons to overthrow the world's rulers. Then Zeus became the ruler of the universe.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Which of these is a main characteristic of the Cyclopes?

- A. being tiny
- B. being rulers of the universe
- C. having only one eye
- D. being enemies of Zeus

2. What is the author's purpose in writing this passage?

- A. to compare and contrast Cyclopes with other Greek figures
- B. to discuss ancient and modern versions of Cyclopes stories
- C. to persuade the reader that Cyclopes are good rulers
- D. to describe the Cyclopes and tell a story about them

3. Zeus wanted to free the Cyclopes because

- A. they could help him become ruler of the universe.
- B. Zeus wanted to please the rulers of the universe.
- C. they had helped him become ruler of the universe.
- D. Zeus was afraid of the Cyclopes and wanted to please them.

4. Read the following sentences: "Zeus freed the Cyclopes from the underworld. Out of gratitude, the Cyclopes gave Zeus gifts."

The word **gratitude** most nearly means

- A. sadness
- B. anger
- C. love
- D. thankfulness

5. The passage "The Cyclopes" is mostly about

- A. the amount of eyes that Ancient Greeks had.
- B. the way the universe was created.
- C. important characters in Greek mythology.
- D. the reasons the Ancient Greeks believed in teamwork.

6. How did the Cyclopes thank Zeus for freeing them?

---

---

---

7. Why were the Cyclopes willing to help Zeus and give him weapons?

---

---

---

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

The Cyclopes were trapped underground but \_\_\_\_\_ were freed by Zeus.

- A. before
- B. therefore
- C. finally
- D. on the contrary

**9. Vocabulary Word:** overthrow: defeat, get rid of.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence:

---

---

---

**Answers will vary.**