**The Titans and the Olympians**

In the beginning there was only chaos. Then out of the void appeared Erebus, the unknowable place where death dwells, and Night. All else was empty, silent, endless, darkness. Then somehow Love was born bringing a start of order. From Love came Light and Day. Once there was Light and Day, [Gaea](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Gaea/gaea.html), the earth appeared.

Gaea alone gave birth to [Uranus,](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Uranus/uranus.html) the heavens. Later on, the two became a couple and  
were the first Gods to rule the world. They had twelve children who were known as the Titans, three others known as the Cyclopes, and the three one-hundred-handed Giants. However, Uranus was a bad father and husband. He saw his offspring as a threat to his throne and eventually imprisoned them deep within Gaea, the Earth. She devised a plan to rid her children from their tyrant father, and supplied her youngest child [Cronus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Cronus/cronus.html) with a sickle. She then arranged a meeting for the two in which [Cronus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Cronus/cronus.html) castrated his father, throwing his parts into the sea. Aphrodite was born from the foam of the resulting splash and sea foam. The fate of Uranus is not clear. He either died, withdrew from the earth, or exiled himself to Italy. As he departed he promised that Cronus and the Titans would be punished.

***How did the World begin?***

***How did Cronos view his children? What actions did it take because of this?***

Cronus became the next ruler and married his sister [Rhea](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Rhea/rhea.html); under his rule the Titans had many offspring. He imprisoned Uranus’s other children in[Tartarus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Places/Tartarus/tartarus.html). He ruled for many ages. However, Gaea and Uranus both had been prophesied that he would be overthrown by a son. To avoid this Cronus swallowed each of his children as they were born. Rhea was angry at the treatment of her children and plotted against Cronus. When it came time to give birth to her sixth child, Zeus, Rhea tricked Chronos into swallowing a stone wrapped in clothes instead of Zeus himself.

Zeus was raised by nymphs and grew into a handsome youth on Crete. Rhea convinced Cronus to accept his son and Zeus was allowed to return to [Mount Olympus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Places/Mount_Olympus/mount_olympus.html) as Cronus's cupbearer. This gave Zeus the opportunity to slip Cronus a specially prepared drink that would make him vomit up his other children. This worked as planned and the other five children were vomited up. Being gods they were unharmed. They were thankful to Zeus and made him their leader.

***Explain what happened with Cronos and Rhea’s children in 3 sentences.***

Cronus was yet to be defeated. He and the Titans, except [Prometheus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Prometheus/prometheus.html), [Epimetheus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Epimetheus/epimetheus.html), and [Oceanus](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Oceanus/oceanus.html), fought to retain their power. [Atlas](http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/Atlas/atlas.html) became their leader in battle and it looked for some time as though they would win and put the young gods down. However, Zeus was cunning. He went down to Tartarus and freed the Cyclopes and the hundred-handed Giants. Prometheus joined Zeus as well. He returned to battle with his new allies. The Cyclopes provided Zeus with lightning bolts for weapons. The hundred-handed Giants he set in ambush armed with boulders. With the time right, Zeus retreated drawing the Titans into the Giant’s ambush. The Giant’s rained down hundreds of boulders with such a fury the Titans thought the mountains were falling on them. They broke and ran giving Zeus victory.

Zeus exiled the all Titans who had fought against him into Tartarus, except for Atlas, who was singled out for the special punishment of holding the world on his shoulders because he fought on the side of the Titans.

***Explain how Cronos was defeated in 3 sentences.***

***Write down at least 3 words in this myth you are unfamiliar with and provide a definition for them.***



***What do you know about the following characters based on this story***

***Atlas –***

***Prometheus –***

***Cyclops and Hundred-Handed Giants -***