

April 20-24, 2020

Sixth Grade Reading Students.



You are receiving the third digital weekly assignment from me. Your assignments will come to you in this form the remainder of the year. Your assignments are on my Teacher Page under lohn isd.net. Complete your work and send it digitally to my teacher page. Your work is coming in very slowly or not at all. Please remember you are required to complete all your work to get credit for the year. Please do not fall further behind. If you still have plastic bags with work to turn in, Mr. Gilcrease's bus goes to the park in Brady at noon on Monday and Friday every week. Mrs. Freeman picks up on the same days, and so does Coach Martin. Take it to them and they will bring it to me.

Your assignment for this week is the beginning of our unit on **Mythology**. I think you will enjoy this lesson because it is "strange"; and some of you have told me you like to study mythology. This should be fun. This assignment is short, but interesting! Read the information I have for you about Greek Mythology, and then complete the assignment. You will have fun reading. Hopefully, with this short assignment, you will have extra time to finish work you have not turned in. These are the assignments due: Drawing Conclusions cards, STAAR sets 5 & 6, Colonial Times stories, worksheets over interjections, and worksheets over conjunctions. Don't risk having "zeros" because you haven't done your assignments.

Have a wonderful week. Watch for my emails or phone calls.

Stay well and safe

I miss you,

Mrs. Martin

# LESSON 1: GREEK CREATION MYTHOLOGY

Although when we think of mythology we think of a collection of stories, there is a beginning to them. Understanding the beginning of the story, the creation of the world, gives us a framework to build upon as we learn about the different myths.

The short answer to how the Greeks viewed the creation of the world is this: Scary old gods came first; they got stomped down by their kids, who were better looking, younger gods. These gods created humans. Humans and gods fought for supremacy, and the humans won a few rounds but eventually got trounced and became more and more miserable.

Now, the longer answer: In the beginning, the universe was without form. It was not nothing; there was matter, but it was unorganized, shapeless, mixed up and dark. This was called Chaos.

After Chaos, more divinities, or gods, came into being.

Gaia, the Earth, held up Uranus, the sky. Gaia and Uranus had a bunch of kids. First they had a bunch of monsters including the Cyclops, and then they created the Titans as the second generation. Uranus hated all the Titans and was actually quite ugly about it — but there are only a couple of Titans that you need to remember: first, Oceanus, the god of the sea, and then Cronus, the strongest and best one of all. Gaia was pretty ticked at Uranus for being a jerk, so she helped Cronus overthrow him.

So, let's keep this straight. Cronus is Uranus's son. Cronus became the king (bye-bye Uranus), and married his sister, Rhea — another Titan. It's like a soap opera. This was called the Golden Age because men, who had been made by a Titan named Prometheus, were living in harmony. Everything was hunky dory.

It didn't last, though, because Cronus heard a prophecy that one of his sons would dethrone him, so every time his wife, Rhea, had a baby, he swallowed it. Rhea got a little sick of seeing all of her children swallowed alive, so she tricked Cronus when her sixth child, Zeus, was born; she wrapped up a rock to look like a baby and had Cronus swallow that instead. Zeus rescued his previously swallowed siblings, and all was right with the world.

## World View

The Greek view of the world was a little different than ours. The Greeks believed that the world was flat, but circular, like a paper plate. At the center of the Universe was Greece.

Their world was divided by the Mediterranean, which means "Middle of the Lands" in Latin. The river Ocean flowed around the world in a clockwise motion.

**In the north** lived the Hyperboreans — an extremely happy people for whom life was sweet. When the old people became tired of living, they threw themselves into the sea. This was a land of constant vacation where people were said to live for 1,000 years.



**In the south** lived the Ethiopians. In Greek drama, mention is often made of various gods being in Ethiopia, meaning really far away. So, if I say I parked in Ethiopia this morning, would that mean I'm close to my office or far away? The Ethiopians were said to be on good terms with the gods and liked to entertain them.

**To the west** were the Elysian Fields. This was the closest the Greeks got to the idea of heaven; only the best and brightest of the dead people got to go there.

**Your assignment for the first lesson in our unit on Mythology is to choose 5 of the words in this list and tell about them. All of them were in your reading today.**

**Chaos**

**Cronus**

**Hyperboreans**

**Titans**

**Rhea**

**Ethiopians**

**Gaia**

**Zeus**

**Elysian Fields**

**Uranus**

**Prometheus**

**Cyclops**

**Mediterranean**

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