

Zeus

Vocabulary Words

1. thunderbolt (noun) a supposed bolt or shaft believed to be the destructive agent in a lightning flash
Example: He was struck dead by a thunderbolt.
2. punish (verb) to cause someone who has done something wrong or committed a crime to suffer, by hurting them, forcing them to pay money, sending them to prison, etc.
Example: Those responsible for these crimes must be brought to court and punished.
3. behave (verb) to act in a particular way
Example: She always behaves well/badly when her aunts come to visit.
4. destroy (verb) to damage something so badly that it cannot be used:
Example: Most of the old part of the city was destroyed by bombs during the war.
5. swallow (verb) to cause food, drink, pills, etc. to move from your mouth into your stomach by using the muscles of your throat
Example: My throat is so sore that it really hurts when I swallow.
6. wrap (verb) to cover or surround something with paper, cloth, or other material:
Example: She wrapped the present and tied it with ribbon.
7. stormy (adjective) full of difficulties or fights
Example: He is best remembered for his stormy marriage to actress Bette Davis.



The most powerful god in ancient Greek mythology was Zeus. He was considered the ruler of all the other gods as well as of humans. Zeus was said to live on top of Mount Olympus with the other major gods. From there, he could see everything that humans did. He sent thunder, lightning, rain, and winds down to Earth. Two of Zeus's symbols are the **thunderbolt** and the eagle. He used the thunderbolt as a weapon.

Zeus was said to **punish** those who angered him or did wrong. However, he rewarded those who **behaved** well. Zeus also was the protector of cities, the home, property, strangers, and guests.

According to legend, Zeus was the son of the Titans Cronus and Rhea. The Titans were giants who once ruled the world. Cronus heard that one of his children would **destroy** him. To prevent this, he **swallowed** his children right after they were born. But when Zeus was born, Rhea tricked Cronus. She had him swallow a rock **wrapped** in cloth rather than the baby. Rhea secretly sent Zeus to a cave to live. After he grew up, Zeus led a war to force the Titans from power. After 10 years Zeus won and became the chief god.

Zeus's wife was the goddess Hera. They had a **stormy** relationship. Zeus fell in love with many other goddesses and women, and Hera became very jealous. When Zeus approached a new woman, he often changed himself into an animal—for example, a swan or a bull. Zeus was the father of many children, including the gods Apollo and Ares and the goddesses Artemis and Athena. Athena was born from Zeus's forehead.

Discussion

1. What do you think should be the characteristics of a good leader?
2. Does being a good family man mean being a good leader?
3. Should a leader's private life be known to the public?
4. What do you think leads to a stormy relationship?
5. What should a woman do when they start feeling that their relationship is starting to become stormy?