

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

# Dads, Greek God Style

by Ella Kennen

Once upon a time or so the story goes, the ruler of the Heavens was Uranus, the sky itself. He locked up all of his children deep inside their mother Gaia, who was the Earth. Maybe Uranus did this because he thought his children were strange looking. Or perhaps he was scared of their power. Whatever the reason, he did not let them out.

Many years later Gaia let Uranus's youngest son, Cronus, escape. Cronus attacked his father and took over as ruler. Cronus knew exactly how bad a kid could be to his dad. To avoid that sort of trouble, he had a simple solution. He swallowed his children whole!

His wife Rhea could not stand the idea of losing another child. When her fifth baby -- Zeus -- was born, she hid him. Rhea gave Cronus a rock wrapped in baby blankets instead. Without a glance, Cronus gulped it down.

After he had grown, Zeus returned and made Cronus spit out his other children. Together, Zeus, his brothers, sisters, and their friends forced Cronus from his throne. Zeus then became the ruler of the Heavens.

Zeus had many children. Fortunately, he was a better parent than his father and grandfather had been.

One of Zeus' favorite -- and most famous -- sons was Heracles. You might know him by his Roman name, Hercules. Today, people think of Heracles as a hero. The old stories say Heracles was incredibly strong. But they also tell us Heracles had a bad temper. Once he tried to take a special object called a tripod from a temple. But the tripod and the temple belonged to the god Apollo, another son of Zeus. The two half-brothers wrestled ferociously. Eventually Zeus broke up the fight using thunderbolts!

These are just a few of the often deadly, always interesting stories the ancient Greeks told. Next time you don't see eye to eye with your dad, just be glad he isn't a Greek god!



Uranus was known to the ancient Greeks as "Father of the Sky." His wife was known as "Mother Earth." What was her name?



Cronus is the youngest son of Uranus. In this picture, he fights his father. Why?



Zeus, the youngest son of Cronus, was the ancient Greek god of thunder. He was also known as "king of the gods" and "ruler of the heavens." What is Zeus doing in this picture?

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1. Which statement best summarizes the main idea of this paragraph?
- a. Fathers of ancient Greek mythology should be admired.
  - b. Uranus was the most terrible god, according to Greek mythology.
  - c. Zeus was the most heroic of all the ancient Greek gods.
  - d. Fathers in Greek mythology did powerful, strange, and often terrible things.

2. Who was Heracles?
- a. Uranus' son
  - b. Cronus' son
  - c. Cronus' grandson
  - d. Uranus' grandson

3. What did Cronus do to his first four children?

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4. Who was Rhea?
- a. Uranus' wife
  - b. Cronus' wife
  - c. Zeus's father
  - d. Gaia's husband

5. How did Zeus save his brothers and sisters?

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6. Who was Cronus?
- a. Zeus' son
  - b. Uranus' grandson
  - c. Zeus's father
  - d. Rhea's son

7. Explain why Apollo and Heracles were fighting.

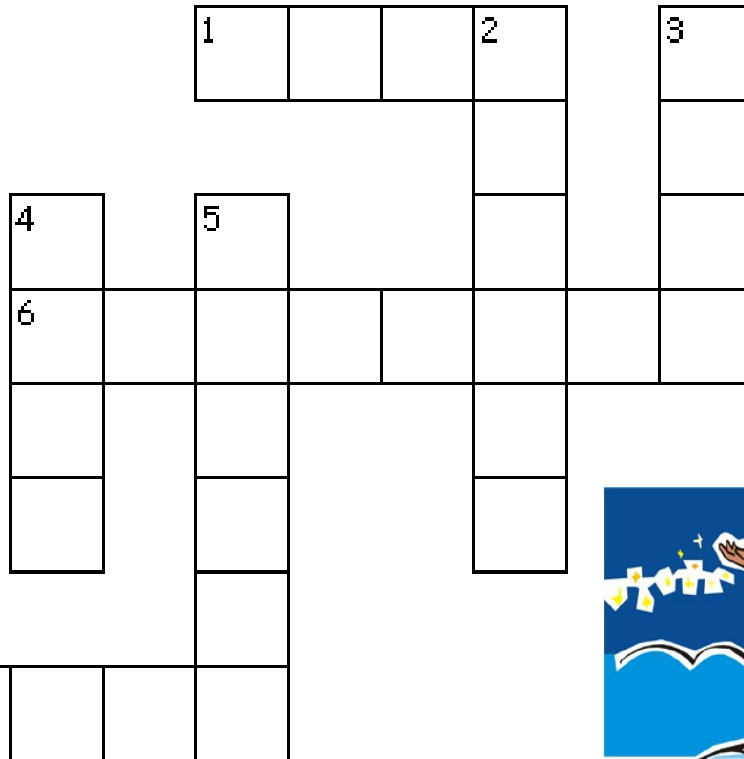
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Use the names of ancient Greek gods and goddesses mentioned in the article to complete this crossword puzzle.

## Across

1. known as "Mother Earth" to the ancient Greeks
6. incredibly strong Greek god
7. known as "Father of the Sky" to ancient Greeks

## Down

2. god whose tripod was stolen
3. god who used thunderbolts to break up a fight between his two sons
4. goddess who tricked Cronus
5. god who swallowed four of his children whole

## ANSWER KEY



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1. Which statement best summarizes the main idea of this paragraph? **d**
  - a. Fathers of ancient Greek mythology should be admired.
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  - b. Cronus' son
  - c. Cronus' grandson
  - d. Uranus' grandson
3. What did Cronus do to his first four children?

He swallowed them whole.
4. Who was Rhea? **b**
  - a. Uranus' wife
  - b. Cronus' wife
  - c. Zeus's father
  - d. Gaia's husband
5. How did Zeus save his brothers and sisters?

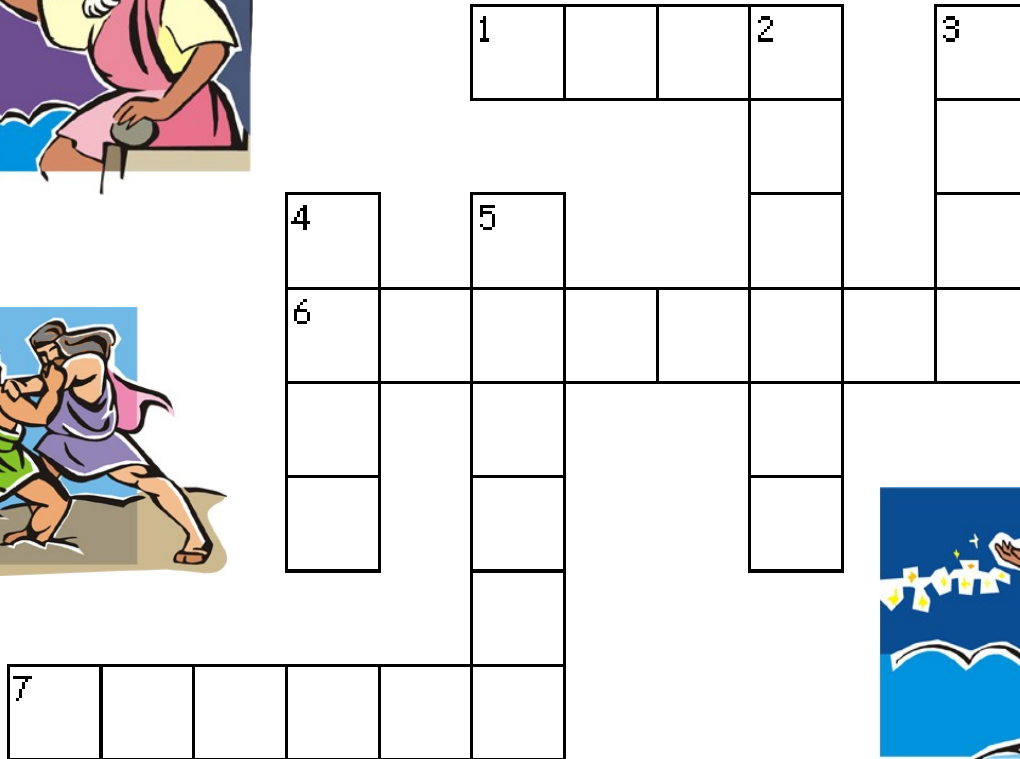
He made Cronus spit them out.
6. Who was Cronus? **c**
  - a. Zeus' son
  - b. Uranus' grandson
  - c. Zeus's father
  - d. Rhea's son
7. Explain why Apollo and Heracles were fighting.

Heracles took a special object called a tripod from a temple.  
The tripod belonged to Apollo.

## ANSWER KEY

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Use the names of ancient Greek gods and goddesses mentioned in the article to complete this crossword puzzle.

### Across

1. known as "Mother Earth" to the ancient Greeks (**Gaia**)
6. incredibly strong Greek god (**Heracles**)
7. known as "Father of the Sky" to ancient Greeks (**Uranus**)

### Down

2. god whose tripod was stolen (**Apollo**)
3. god who used thunderbolts to break up a fight between his two sons (**Apollo**)
4. goddess who tricked Cronus (**Rhea**)
5. god who swallowed four of his children whole (**Cronus**)