**Homer** ca. 800BC: Titans Oceanus and Tethys

* primitive belief that universe can be explained through geography
* word is flat disc with hills, touched at rim by vast dome of heavens
* Oceanus is the stream of ocean that encircles the earth

**Hesiod** ca. 700BC: first to give literary expression to systematic explanation of how the gods, universe + humankind came to be

* Considered classic Greek version
* *Theogony*, details in *Works and Days*

**Hesiod – Theogony**

* Drenched in religious fervour, describing genesis, mortals, gods, events leading to Zeus’ supremacy
  + Purpose to explain the origins of the world
  + To praise the gods, esp Zeus who sustains the ordered universe
  + Justify political realities(?)
* Beauty and power of the Muses; claims to be inspired by divine Muses
  + Daughters of Zeus; graceful dancing, exquisite singing, prophetic vision
* Religious, divinely inspired revelation; from the Muses
* From Chaos came Gaia, Tartarus and Eros, Erebus and Night
  + Chaos suggests ‘yawning void’, not a deity but a beginning/first principle
* Love as a potent force in creation/procreation appears early
* *Birds* comedy by Aristophanes (500BC): many versions and primacy of Eros
  + Eros caused all things to mingle -> race of immortals
  + Mingled in Tartarus with Chaos, hatching birds

Primeval elements: Hesiod’s accounts actual say these are equal, instead of subordinate to chaos

* Chaos: void/chasm; ‘first’
* Earth: standing place of gods
* Tartarus: dark underworld
* Eros: force of sexual attraction that advances creation (in other accounts, son of Ares/Aphrodite)

**Creation according to Ovid**

* Roman poet 700 yr after Hesiod
* Sources: Hesiod, Empedocles
* Chaos (*Metamorphoses* 1. 1-75) not a gaping void but rather a crude unformed mass of elements in strife from which an unnamed god/higher nature formed the universe
* Roman, late, different in spirit/belief from earlier conceptions (Hesiod)

**Hesiod – Theogony con’t**

* Gaia brings forth (asexually, first generation)
  + Uranus as equal, to surround/cover her and be a secure home for the gods
  + Mountain ranges as haunts of nymphs
  + Pontus (without love) the barren deep with raging surf (sea)
* Gaia with Uranus (second generation):
  + Titans: Oceanus, Coeus, Crius, Hyperion, Iapetus, Theia, Rhea, Themis, Mnemosyne, Thebe, Tethys, Cronus
  + Cyclopes: Brontes (Thunder), Steropes (Lightning), Arges (Bright), who made/gave Zeus his bolt of thunder/lightning; had might, power, skill; equal to gods
  + Hecatonchires: Cottus, Briareus, Gyes (hundred-handed ones, 50 heads); hated by Uranus
* First female deity; matriarchal mother earth concept; primary, divine fertility
* Uranus as equal, produced by Gaia; in matriarchies, reduced to subordinate; in patriarchies, become supreme god
* Rain of Uranus on earth, fertilizes earth to conceive 🡪 secred/holy marriage concept ‘**hieros gamos**’
  + Repetition: Uranus/Gaia, Cronus/Rhea, Zeus/Hera
* Repetition of female deity of fertility: Gaia, Themis, Cybele, Rhea, Hera, Demeter, Aphrodite
  + Nourishes, provides support, abundance, animals, plenty

**Titans + Descendants: ocean, sun moon, dawn**

Oceanus, Coeus, Crius, Hyperion, Iapetus, Theia, Rhea, Themis, Mnemosyne, Thebe, Tethys, Cronus

* Cronus hated father
* Deifications of various aspects of nature
* All mythological lineage traced back to Titans and to the other powers originating from Chaos

**Oceanus and the Oceanids**

* Oceanus + Tethys: (water deities) 3000 daughters, 3000 sons, spirits of rivers, waters, springs with many names, some with personalities
  + 3000 oceanids: spirits of springs, mountains, trees (female)
  + 3000 rivers: people living near them know their names (male)

**Hyperion and Helius, Gods of the Sun**

* Hyperion, a god of the sun, m. Theia (sky deities)
* Parents of Helius, Selene, Eos
* Usually younger generation dominates/usurps the older -> Helius
* Sub-god dwells in East, crosses dome of sky with horses, descends in the west into the stream of Oceanus which encircles earth, sails back to the East with chariot

**Phaethon (“shining”), son of Helius**

* Helius + mistress Clymene
* According to Ovid, challenged by the accusation that the Sun was not his real father; Clymene says to ask the sun-god himself
  + Helius grants a gift to dispel doubts; Phaethon asks to drive the chariot
  + Must abide oath by Styx, reluctantly does so
  + Young/inexperienced, can’t control winged horses, causes heat destruction
  + Jupiter hears Earth’s prayers, hurls thunder and lightning, killing Phaethon
    - River Eridanus receives, nymphs bury

**Other loves of Helius**

* Eastern princess Leucothoe, daughter of Persian king Orchamus
  + Disguised as Eurymone, her mother, he seduced her
* Oceanid Clytie, jealous because he preferred Leucothoe to her, told Leucothoe’s father of the affair
  + Orchamus buries Leucothoe, Helius too late to save her, shed nectar on corpse, grew into frankincense tree
  + Clytie cannot gain forgiveness, sits and follows Sun’s path, turns into sunflower
* Nymph Rhode: Zeus’ division of world among gods didn’t give Helius his share, but Rhodes appeared from below the sea
  + One of 7 sons became father of heroes of the 3 principal cities of Rhodes: Camirus, Ialysus, Lindos
  + People threw chariot + 4 horses into sea every October to replace worn out summer chariot

**Selene, goddess of the moon**

* Daughter of Hyperios and Theia; 2 chariot horse, similar to Helius

**Selene and Endymion**

* Handsome youth Endymion, usually a shepherd
* Always lay down beside him as he slept; Zeus grants Endymion perpetual sleep with perpetual youth
  + Punishment because of Selene’s absence from duties; or fulfillment of Slene’s own wishes

**Apollo, Sun-God, and Artemis, Moon-Goddess**

* Many stories of Hyperion, Helius, Titans, etc, transferred to Apollo; all called Phoebus (bright)
* Probably wasn’t originally a sun-god but became considered as such
* Likewise, Selene 🡪 Artemis merge in identity (Roman Diana)

**Eos, goddess of the dawn, and Tithonus (Roman Aurora)**

* Third child of Hyperion and Theia, drives a two horsed chariot; amorous deity
* Aphrodite caused her to long perpetually for young mortals because she caught her mate Ares in Eos’ bed
* Most important mate was Tithonus, handsome youth of Trojan royal house
  + Asked Zeus that Tithonus be immortal, but not for perpetual youth; grew old, continues to love him, but eventually abandoned him

**The Castration of Uranus and the birth of Aphrodite**

* Uranus hated all his children, hid them deep in Ge (womb), did not allow them to emerge into the light
  + Earth in distress, created great sickle, evil scheme with Cronos
  + Cut off Uranus’ genitals, threw them behind him, caught by Earth
    - from blood: Furies/Erinyes (female deities of vengeance), giants, and nymphs of ash trees (Meliae)
    - White foam from the immortal flesh > to Cythera and Cyprus > Aphrodite
* Eros attended Aphrodite, beautiful desire followed her
* Anthropomorphic depiction of Earth sexually surrounded by the Sky, brutal allegory of Aphrodite’s birth, youngest son’s devotion to mother used against father, sexual nature of love, terror of castration

**Cronus (Sky, Saturn) and Rhea (Earth, Cybele) and the birth of Zeus**

* Gave birth to Hestia, Demeter, Hera, Hades, Poseidon, Zeus; Cronus devoured all except Zeus (next generation of gods: Olympians)
  + Intended to prevent no other descendant of Uranus to hold kingly power among gods
  + Was fated that he be overcome by his own child
  + Rhea plotted with Uranus and Ge to hide Zeus when he’s born in Crete; gave Cronus a stone instead