[Template:Other uses](/wiki/Template:Other_uses" \o "Template:Other uses) [Template:Pp-semi-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-indef) [Template:Infobox deity](/wiki/Template:Infobox_deity) [Template:Special characters](/wiki/Template:Special_characters)

**Zeus** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en);[[1]](#cite_note-1) [Template:Lang-grc](/wiki/Template:Lang-grc), *Zeús*, [Template:IPA-el](/wiki/Template:IPA-el);[[2]](#cite_note-2) Modern [Template:Lang-el](/wiki/Template:Lang-el), *Días* [Template:IPA-el](/wiki/Template:IPA-el)) was the [sky](/wiki/Sky_father) and [thunder god](/wiki/Thunder_god) in [ancient Greek religion](/wiki/Ancient_Greek_religion), who ruled as [king of the gods](/wiki/King_of_the_gods) of [Mount Olympus](/wiki/Mount_Olympus). His name is [cognate](/wiki/Cognate) with the first element of his [Roman](/wiki/Ancient_Roman_religion) [equivalent](/wiki/Interpretatio_graeca) [Jupiter](/wiki/Jupiter_(mythology)).

Zeus is the child of [Cronus](/wiki/Cronus) and [Rhea](/wiki/Rhea_(mythology)), the youngest of his siblings to be born, though sometimes reckoned the eldest as the others required disgorging from Cronus's stomach. In most traditions, he is married to [Hera](/wiki/Hera), by whom he is usually said to have fathered [Ares](/wiki/Ares), [Hebe](/wiki/Hebe_(mythology)), and [Hephaestus](/wiki/Hephaestus).[[3]](#cite_note-3) At the [oracle](/wiki/Oracle) of [Dodona](/wiki/Dodona), his consort was said to be [Dione](/wiki/Dione_(Titaness/Oceanid)), by whom the [*Iliad*](/wiki/Iliad) states that he fathered [Aphrodite](/wiki/Aphrodite).[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) Zeus was also infamous for his erotic escapades. These resulted in many godly and heroic offspring, including [Athena](/wiki/Athena), [Apollo](/wiki/Apollo), [Artemis](/wiki/Artemis), [Hermes](/wiki/Hermes), [Persephone](/wiki/Persephone), [Dionysus](/wiki/Dionysus), [Perseus](/wiki/Perseus), [Heracles](/wiki/Heracles), [Helen of Troy](/wiki/Helen_of_Troy), [Minos](/wiki/Minos), and the [Muses](/wiki/Muse).[[3]](#cite_note-3) He was respected as an [allfather](/wiki/King_of_the_Gods) who was chief of the gods[[4]](#cite_note-4) and assigned the others to their roles:[[5]](#cite_note-5) "Even the gods who are not his natural children address him as Father, and all the gods rise in his presence."[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[7]](#cite_note-7) He was [equated](/wiki/Interpretatio_graeca) with many foreign [weather gods](/wiki/Weather_god), permitting [Pausanias](/wiki/Pausanias_(geographer)) to observe "That Zeus is king in heaven is a saying common to all men".[[8]](#cite_note-8) His symbols are the [thunderbolt](/wiki/Thunderbolt), [eagle](/wiki/Eagle), [bull](/wiki/Bull_(mythology)), and [oak](/wiki/Oak). In addition to his [Indo-European inheritance](/wiki/Dyeus), the classical "cloud-gatherer" (Greek: [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang), *Nephelēgereta*)[[9]](#cite_note-9) also derives certain iconographic traits from the cultures of the [Ancient Near East](/wiki/Ancient_Near_East), such as the [scepter](/wiki/Scepter). Zeus is frequently depicted by Greek artists in one of two poses: standing, striding forward with a thunderbolt leveled in his raised right hand, or seated in majesty.

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## Name[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[thumb|The Chariot of Zeus, from an 1879 *Stories from the Greek Tragedians* by Alfred Church.](/wiki/File:The_Chariot_of_Zeus_-_Project_Gutenberg_eText_14994.png)

The god's name in the nominative is [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) *Zeús*. It is inflected as follows: [vocative](/wiki/Vocative): [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang); [accusative](/wiki/Accusative): [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang); [genitive](/wiki/Genitive): [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang); [dative](/wiki/Dative): [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang). [Diogenes Laertius](/wiki/Diogenes_Laertius) quotes [Pherecydes of Syros](/wiki/Pherecydes_of_Syros) as spelling the name, [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang).<ref name=DioL1.11>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book) [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

*Zeus* is the Greek continuation of \*[*Template:PIE*](/wiki/Template:PIE)*,* the name of the [Proto-Indo-European](/wiki/Proto-Indo-European_religion) god of the daytime sky, also called \*[*Template:PIE*](/wiki/Template:PIE) ("Sky Father").[[10]](#cite_note-10)[[11]](#cite_note-11) The god is known under this name in the [Rigveda](/wiki/Rigvedic_deities) ([Vedic Sanskrit](/wiki/Vedic_Sanskrit) [*Dyaus/Dyaus Pita*](/wiki/Dyaus_Pita)), [Latin](/wiki/Latin) (compare [*Jupiter*](/wiki/Jupiter_(god)), from *Iuppiter*, deriving from the [Proto-Indo-European](/wiki/Proto-Indo-European) vocative \*[*Template:PIE*](/wiki/Template:PIE)),[[12]](#cite_note-12) deriving from the [root](/wiki/PIE_root) \**dyeu*- ("to shine", and in its many derivatives, "sky, heaven, god").[[10]](#cite_note-10)Zeus is the only deity in the Olympic [pantheon](/wiki/Pantheon_(gods)) whose name has such a transparent Indo-European etymology.[[13]](#cite_note-13) The earliest attested forms of the name are the [Mycenaean Greek](/wiki/Mycenaean_Greek) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang), *di-we* and [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang), *di-wo*, written in the [Linear B](/wiki/Linear_B) syllabic script.[[14]](#cite_note-14) [Plato](/wiki/Plato), in his [*Cratylus*](/wiki/Cratylus_(dialogue)), gives a folk etymology of Zeus meaning "cause of life always to all things," because of puns between alternate titles of Zeus (*Zen* and *Dia*) with the Greek words for life and "because of."[[15]](#cite_note-15) This etymology, along with Plato's entire method of deriving etymologies, is not supported by modern scholarship.[[16]](#cite_note-16)[[17]](#cite_note-17)

## Zeus in myth[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[thumb|Zeus, at the Getty Villa, A.D. 1 – 100 by unknown.](/wiki/File:Zeus_Getty_Villa.jpg)

### Birth[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[thumb|"](/wiki/File:Idäische_Grotte_11.JPG)[Cave of Zeus](/wiki/Cave_of_Zeus)", [Mount Ida (Crete)](/wiki/Mount_Ida_(Crete)).

[Cronus](/wiki/Cronus) sired several children by [Rhea](/wiki/Rhea_(mythology)): [Hestia](/wiki/Hestia), [Demeter](/wiki/Demeter), [Hera](/wiki/Hera), [Hades](/wiki/Hades), and [Poseidon](/wiki/Poseidon), but swallowed them all as soon as they were born, since he had learned from [Gaia](/wiki/Gaia_(mythology)) and [Uranus](/wiki/Uranus_(mythology)) that he was destined to be overthrown by his son as he had previously overthrown Uranus, his own father, an oracle that Rhea heard and wished to avert.

When Zeus was about to be born, Rhea sought Gaia to devise a plan to save him, so that Cronus would get his retribution for his acts against Uranus and his own children. Rhea gave birth to Zeus in Crete, handing Cronus a rock wrapped in swaddling clothes, which he promptly swallowed.[[18]](#cite_note-18)

### Infancy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

Rhea hid Zeus in a [cave](/wiki/Cave_of_Zeus) on [Mount Ida](/wiki/Mount_Ida) in Crete. According to varying versions of the story:

1. He was then raised by [Gaia](/wiki/Gaia_(mythology)).
2. He was raised by a [goat](/wiki/Goat) named [Amalthea](/wiki/Amalthea_(mythology)), while a company of [Kouretes](/wiki/Kouretes)— soldiers, or smaller gods— danced, shouted and clashed their spears against their shields so that Cronus would not hear the baby's cry (see [cornucopia](/wiki/Cornucopia)). According to some versions of this story he was reared by Amalthea in a cave called **Dictaeon Andron** ([Psychro Cave](/wiki/Psychro_Cave)) in [Lasithi plateau](/wiki/Lasithi_Plateau).
3. He was raised by a [nymph](/wiki/Nymph) named [Adamanthea](/wiki/Adamanthea). Since Cronus ruled over the [Earth](/wiki/Earth), the [heavens](/wiki/Heaven) and the [sea](/wiki/Sea), she hid him by dangling him on a [rope](/wiki/Rope) from a [tree](/wiki/Tree) so he was suspended between earth, sea and sky and thus, invisible to his father.
4. He was raised by a [nymph](/wiki/Nymph) named [Cynosura](/wiki/Cynosura). In gratitude, Zeus [placed her among the stars](/wiki/Catasterismi).
5. He was raised by [Melissa](/wiki/Melissa), who nursed him with [goat's milk](/wiki/Goat_milk) and honey.
6. He was raised by a shepherd family under the promise that their sheep would be saved from wolves.

### King of the gods[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[thumb|upright|Colossal seated](/wiki/File:Statue_of_Zeus_dsc02611-.jpg) [Marnas](/wiki/Dagon) from [Gaza](/wiki/Gaza_City) portrayed in the style of Zeus. Roman period Marnas[[19]](#cite_note-19) was the chief divinity of Gaza ([Istanbul Archaeology Museum](/wiki/Istanbul_Archaeology_Museum)).

After reaching manhood, Zeus forced Cronus to disgorge first the stone (which was set down at [Pytho](/wiki/Pytho) under the glens of [Parnassus](/wiki/Parnassus) to be a sign to mortal men, the [Omphalos](/wiki/Omphalos)) then his siblings in reverse order of swallowing. In some versions, [Metis](/wiki/Metis_(mythology)) gave Cronus an [emetic](/wiki/Emetic) to force him to disgorge the babies, or Zeus cut Cronus's [stomach](/wiki/Stomach) open. Then Zeus released the brothers of Cronus, the [Gigantes](/wiki/Giants_(Greek_mythology)), the [Hecatonchires](/wiki/Hekatonkheires) and the [Cyclopes](/wiki/Cyclops), from their dungeon in [Tartarus](/wiki/Tartarus), killing their guard, [Campe](/wiki/Campe).

As a token of their appreciation, the Cyclopes gave him [thunder](/wiki/Thunder) and the thunderbolt, or [lightning](/wiki/Lightning), which had previously been hidden by Gaia. Together, Zeus and his brothers and sisters, along with the Gigantes, Hecatonchires and Cyclopes overthrew Cronus and the other Titans, in the combat called the [Titanomachy](/wiki/Titanomachy). The defeated Titans were then cast into a shadowy underworld region known as Tartarus. [Atlas](/wiki/Atlas_(mythology)), one of the titans that fought against Zeus, was punished by having to hold up the sky.

After the battle with the Titans, Zeus shared the world with his elder brothers, [Poseidon](/wiki/Poseidon) and [Hades](/wiki/Hades), by drawing lots: Zeus got the sky and air, Poseidon the waters, and Hades the world of the dead (the underworld). The ancient Earth, [Gaia](/wiki/Gaia_(mythology)), could not be claimed; she was left to all three, each according to their capabilities, which explains why Poseidon was the "earth-shaker" (the god of earthquakes) and Hades claimed the humans that died (see also [Penthus](/wiki/Penthus)).

Gaia resented the way Zeus had treated the Titans, because they were her children. Soon after taking the throne as king of the gods, Zeus had to fight some of Gaia's other children, the [monsters](/wiki/Monster) [Typhon](/wiki/Typhon) and [Echidna](/wiki/Echidna_(mythology)). He vanquished Typhon and trapped him under [Mount Etna](/wiki/Mount_Etna), but left Echidna and her children alive.

### Zeus and Hera[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Zeus was brother and consort of [Hera](/wiki/Hera). By Hera, Zeus sired [Ares](/wiki/Ares), [Hebe](/wiki/Hebe_(mythology)) and [Hephaestus](/wiki/Hephaestus), though some accounts say that Hera produced these offspring alone. Some also include [Eileithyia](/wiki/Ilithyia) and [Eris](/wiki/Eris_(mythology)) as their daughters. In the section of the Iliad known to scholars as the [Deception of Zeus](/wiki/Deception_of_Zeus), the two of them are described as having begun their sexual relationship without their parents knowing about it.[[20]](#cite_note-20) The conquests of Zeus among [nymphs](/wiki/Nymph) and the mythic mortal progenitors of [Hellenic](/wiki/Greeks) dynasties are famous. Olympian mythography even credits him with unions with [Leto](/wiki/Leto), [Demeter](/wiki/Demeter), [Dione](/wiki/Dione_(Titaness/Oceanid)) and [Maia](/wiki/Maia_(mythology)). Among mortals were [Semele](/wiki/Semele), [Io](/wiki/Io_(mythology)), [Europa](/wiki/Europa_(mythology)) and [Leda](/wiki/Leda_(mythology)) (for more details, see below) and with the young [Ganymede](/wiki/Ganymede_(mythology)) (although he was mortal Zeus granted him eternal youth and immortality).

Many myths render Hera as jealous of his amorous conquests and a consistent enemy of Zeus's mistresses and their children by him. For a time, a [nymph](/wiki/Nymph) named [Echo](/wiki/Echo_(mythology)) had the job of distracting Hera from his affairs by talking incessantly, and when Hera discovered the deception, she cursed Echo to repeat the words of others.

### Consorts and children[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:MultiCol](/wiki/Template:MultiCol)

#### Divine offspring[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Mother** | **Children** |
| [Aega](/wiki/Aega_(goddess)) | [Aegipan](/wiki/Aegipan)[[21]](#cite_note-21) |
| [Ananke](/wiki/Ananke_(mythology)) or [Themis](/wiki/Themis) | [Moirai](/wiki/Moirai)/Fates1   1. [Atropos](/wiki/Atropos) 2. [Clotho](/wiki/Clotho) 3. [Lachesis](/wiki/Lachesis_(mythology)) |
| [Aphrodite](/wiki/Aphrodite) | [Tyche](/wiki/Tyche)6 (possibly) |
| [Demeter](/wiki/Demeter) | [Persephone](/wiki/Persephone) |
| [Dione](/wiki/Dione_(Titaness/Oceanid)) or [Thalassa](/wiki/Thalassa_(mythology)) | Aphrodite |
| [Eris](/wiki/Eris_(mythology)) | [Limos](/wiki/Limos_(mythology)) |
| [Eurynome](/wiki/Eurynome_(Oceanid))/[Eurydome](/wiki/Eurydome)/ Eurymedusa/Euanthe | [Charites](/wiki/Charites)/[Graces](/wiki/Graces)2   1. [Aglaea](/wiki/Aglaea) 2. [Euphrosyne](/wiki/Euphrosyne_(mythology)) 3. [Thalia](/wiki/Thalia_(Grace)) |
| [Gaia](/wiki/Gaia_(mythology)) | 1. [Manes](/wiki/Manes_(king)) |
| [Hera](/wiki/Hera) | 1. [Ares](/wiki/Ares)3 2. [Eileithyia](/wiki/Eileithyia) 3. [Enyo](/wiki/Enyo) 4. [Eris](/wiki/Eris_(mythology)) 5. [Hebe](/wiki/Hebe_(mythology))3 6. [Hephaestus](/wiki/Hephaestus)3 7. [Angelos](/wiki/Angelos_(Greek_mythology)) |
| [Leto](/wiki/Leto) | 1. [Apollo](/wiki/Apollo) 2. [Artemis](/wiki/Artemis) |
| [Maia](/wiki/Maia_(mythology)) | [Hermes](/wiki/Hermes) |
| [Metis](/wiki/Metis_(mythology)) | [Athena](/wiki/Athena)4 |
| [Mnemosyne](/wiki/Mnemosyne) | 1. [Muses](/wiki/Muses) (Original three)    1. [Aoide](/wiki/Aoide)    2. [Melete](/wiki/Melete)    3. [Mneme](/wiki/Mneme) 2. [Muses](/wiki/Muses) (Later nine)    1. [Calliope](/wiki/Calliope)    2. [Clio](/wiki/Clio)    3. [Euterpe](/wiki/Euterpe_(mythology))    4. [Erato](/wiki/Erato)    5. [Melpomene](/wiki/Melpomene)    6. [Polyhymnia](/wiki/Polyhymnia)    7. [Terpsichore](/wiki/Terpsichore)    8. [Thalia](/wiki/Thalia_(Muse))    9. [Urania](/wiki/Urania) |
| [Nemesis](/wiki/Nemesis_(mythology)) | [Helen of Troy](/wiki/Helen_of_Troy) (possibly) |
| [Persephone](/wiki/Persephone) | 1. [Zagreus](/wiki/Zagreus) 2. [Melinoe](/wiki/Melinoe) |
| [Selene](/wiki/Selene) | 1. [Ersa](/wiki/Ersa) 2. [Nemean Lion](/wiki/Nemean_lion) 3. [Pandia](/wiki/Pandia) |
| [Thalia](/wiki/Thalia_(nymph)) | [Palici](/wiki/Palici) |
| [Themis](/wiki/Themis) | 1. [Astraea](/wiki/Astraea_(mythology)) 2. Nymphs of [Eridanos](/wiki/Eridanos_(mythology)) 3. [Nemesis](/wiki/Nemesis_(mythology)) 4. [Horae](/wiki/Horae)    1. First Generation       1. [Auxo](/wiki/Auxo)       2. [Carpo](/wiki/Horae)       3. [Thallo](/wiki/Thallo)    2. Second Generation       1. [Dike](/wiki/Dike_(goddess))       2. [Eirene](/wiki/Eirene_(Greek_goddess))       3. [Eunomia](/wiki/Eunomia_(goddess))    3. Third generation       1. [Pherusa](/wiki/Pherusa)       2. [Euporie](/wiki/Euporie)       3. [Orthosie](/wiki/Horae)       4. [Adikia](/wiki/Adikia) |
| [Eos](/wiki/Eos) | 1. Carae |
| Unknown mother | [Aletheia](/wiki/Veritas) |
| Unknown mother | [Ate](/wiki/Atë) |
| Unknown mother | [Caerus](/wiki/Caerus) |
| Unknown mother | [Litae](/wiki/Litae) |
|  |  |

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#### Semi-divine/mortal offspring[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Mother** | **Children** |
| [Aegina](/wiki/Aegina_(mythology)) | # [Aeacus](/wiki/Aeacus) # Damocrateia[[22]](#cite_note-22) |
| [Alcmene](/wiki/Alcmene) | [Heracles](/wiki/Heracles) |
| [Antiope](/wiki/Antiope_(mother_of_Amphion)) | 1. [Amphion](/wiki/Amphion) 2. [Zethus](/wiki/Amphion_and_Zethus) |
| Anaxithea | [Olenus](/wiki/Olenus) |
| Asterope, [Oceanid](/wiki/List_of_Oceanids) | Acragas |
| [Callisto](/wiki/Callisto_the_Greek_myth) | [Arcas](/wiki/Arcas) |
| [Calyce](/wiki/Calyce_(mythology)) | [Aethlius](/wiki/Aethlius) (possibly) |
| Callirhoe (daughter of [Achelous](/wiki/Achelous)) | no known offspring |
| [Carme](/wiki/Carme_(mythology)) | [Britomartis](/wiki/Britomartis) |
| [Cassiopeia](/wiki/Cassiopeia_(mythology)#Wife_of_Phoenix) | [Atymnius](/wiki/Atymnius) |
| Chaldene | 1. [Solymus](/wiki/Solymus) 2. Milye |
| [Danaë](/wiki/Danaë) | [Perseus](/wiki/Perseus) |
| [Dia](/wiki/Dia_(mythology)) | [Pirithous](/wiki/Pirithous) |
| [Elara](/wiki/Elara_(mythology)) | 1. [Tityos](/wiki/Tityos) |
| [Electra](/wiki/Electra_(Pleiad)) | 1. [Dardanus](/wiki/Dardanus) 2. [Iasion](/wiki/Iasion) 3. [Harmonia](/wiki/Harmonia_(mythology)) |
| [Europa](/wiki/Europa_(mythology)) | # [Minos](/wiki/Minos) # [Rhadamanthus](/wiki/Rhadamanthus) # [Sarpedon](/wiki/Sarpedon) # [Alagonia](/wiki/Alagonia) # [Carnus](/wiki/Carnus) # Dodon[[23]](#cite_note-23) |
| [Eurymedousa](/wiki/Eurymedousa) | [Myrmidon](/wiki/Myrmidon_(hero)) |
| Euryodeia | [Arcesius](/wiki/Arcesius) |
| [Himalia](/wiki/Himalia_(mythology)) | 1. Kronios 2. Spartaios 3. Kytos |
| Idaea, nymph | [Cres](/wiki/Cres_(mythology)) |
| [Iodame](/wiki/Iodame) | [Thebe](/wiki/List_of_mythological_figures_named_Thebe) |
| [Io](/wiki/Io_(mythology)) | 1. [Epaphus](/wiki/Epaphus) 2. [Keroessa](/wiki/Keroessa) |
| Isonoe | Orchomenus |
| [Lamia](/wiki/Lamia_(mythology)) | Achilleus[[24]](#cite_note-24) |
| [Lamia (daughter of Poseidon)](/wiki/Lamia_(daughter_of_Poseidon)) | [Libyan Sibyl](/wiki/Libyan_Sibyl) |
| [Laodamia](/wiki/Laodamia) | [Sarpedon](/wiki/Sarpedon) |
| [Leda](/wiki/Leda_(mythology)) | 1. [Pollux](/wiki/Castor_and_Pollux) 2. [Helen of Troy](/wiki/Helen_of_Troy)5 |
| Maera | [Locrus](/wiki/Locrus) |
| [Niobe](/wiki/Niobe_(daughter_of_Phoroneus)) | 1. [Argus](/wiki/Argus_(king_of_Argos)) 2. [Pelasgus](/wiki/Pelasgus) |
| [Othreis](/wiki/Othreis) | Meliteus |
| [Pandora](/wiki/Pandora_II) | [Graecus](/wiki/Graecus) |
| Phthia (daughter of [Phoroneus](/wiki/Phoroneus)) | [Achaeus](/wiki/Achaeus_(son_of_Xuthus)) (possibly) |
| [Plouto](/wiki/Plouto) | [Tantalus](/wiki/Tantalus) |
| [Podarge](/wiki/Podarge) | 1. [Balius](/wiki/Balius) 2. [Xanthus](/wiki/Balius_and_Xanthus) |
| [Protogeneia](/wiki/Protogeneia) | 1. [Aethlius](/wiki/Aethlius) (possibly) 2. [Opus](/wiki/Opus_(mythology)) |
| [Pyrrha](/wiki/Pyrrha) | [Hellen](/wiki/Hellen) |
| [Semele](/wiki/Semele) | [Dionysus](/wiki/Dionysus) |
| [Taygete](/wiki/Taygete) | [Lacedaemon](/wiki/Lacedaemon) |
| [Thyia](/wiki/Thyia) | 1. [Magnes](/wiki/Magnes_(mythology)) 2. [Makednos](/wiki/Makednos) |
| Torrhebia | [Carius](/wiki/Carius) |
| Nymph African | [Iarbas](/wiki/Iarbas) |
| Nymph Samothracian | [Saon](/wiki/Saon_(mythology)) (possibly) |
| Nymph Sithnid | [Megarus](/wiki/Ancient_Greek_flood_myths#Deucalion) |
| Unknown mother | 1. Calabrus 2. Geraestus 3. [Taenarus](/wiki/Taenarus_(mythology)) |
| Unknown mother | [Corinthus](/wiki/Corinthus) |
| Unknown mother | [Crinacus](/wiki/Crinacus) |

[Template:EndMultiCol](/wiki/Template:EndMultiCol)

1The Greeks variously claimed that the Moires/Fates were the daughters of Zeus and the Titaness [Themis](/wiki/Themis) or of primordial beings like [Chaos](/wiki/Chaos_(mythology)), [Nyx](/wiki/Nyx_(mythology)), or [Ananke](/wiki/Ananke_(mythology)).

2The Charites/Graces were usually considered the daughters of Zeus and Eurynome but they were also said to be daughters of Dionysus and Aphrodite or of Helios and the naiad Aegle.

3Some accounts say that Ares, Hebe and Hephaestus were born parthenogenetically.

4According to one version, Athena is said to be born parthenogenetically.

5Helen was either the daughter of Leda or Nemesis.

6Tyche is usually considered a daughter of Aphrodite and Hermes.

[Template:Anchor](/wiki/Template:Anchor)

## Roles and epithets[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[thumb|Roman marble colossal head of Zeus, 2nd century AD (](/wiki/File:Bust_of_Zeus.jpg)[British Museum](/wiki/British_Museum))[[25]](#cite_note-25)

Zeus played a dominant role, presiding over the [Greek](/wiki/Ancient_Greece) Olympian pantheon. He fathered many of the heroes and was featured in many of their [local cults](/wiki/Cult_(religion)). Though the Homeric "cloud collector" was the god of the sky and thunder like his Near-Eastern counterparts, he was also the supreme cultural artifact; in some senses, he was the embodiment of Greek [religious](/wiki/Religion) beliefs and the [archetypal](/wiki/Archetype) Greek deity.

Aside from local epithets that simply designated the deity as doing something random at some particular place, the [epithets](/wiki/Epithet) or titles applied to Zeus emphasized different aspects of his wide-ranging authority:

* **Zeus Aegiduchos** or **Aegiochos**: Usually taken as Zeus as the bearer of the [Aegis](/wiki/Aegis), the divine shield with the head of [Medusa](/wiki/Medusa) across it,[[26]](#cite_note-26)[[27]](#cite_note-27)[[28]](#cite_note-28) although others derive it from "goat" ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)) and *okhē* ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)) in reference to Zeus's nurse, the divine goat [Amalthea](/wiki/Amalthea_(mythology)).[[29]](#cite_note-29)[[30]](#cite_note-30)\***Zeus** [**Agoraeus**](/wiki/Agoraeus): Zeus as patron of the marketplace ([agora](/wiki/Agora)) and punisher of dishonest traders.
* **Zeus Horkios**: Zeus as keeper of oaths. Exposed liars were made to dedicate a [votive](/wiki/Votive) statue to Zeus, often at the sanctuary at Olympia
* [**Zeus Olympios**](/wiki/Zeus_Olympios): Zeus as [king of the gods](/wiki/King_of_the_gods) and patron of the [Panhellenic Games](/wiki/Panhellenic_Games) at [Olympia](/wiki/Olympia,_Greece)
* **Zeus Panhellenios** ("Zeus of All the [Greeks](/wiki/Names_of_the_Greeks)"): worshipped at [Aeacus's](/wiki/Aeacus) temple on [Aegina](/wiki/Aegina)
* **Zeus Xenios**, **Philoxenon**, or **Hospites**: Zeus as the patron of hospitality ([*xenia*](/wiki/Xenia_(Greek))) and guests, avenger of wrongs done to strangers

Additional names and epithets for Zeus are also:

* [**Apemius**](/wiki/Apemius): Zeus as the averter of ills
* [**Apomyius**](/wiki/Apomyius) Zeus as one who dispels flies
* **Astrapios** ("Lightninger"): Zeus as a [weather god](/wiki/Weather_god)
* **Bottiaeus**: Worshipped at [Antioch](/wiki/Antioch)[[31]](#cite_note-31)\* **Brontios** ("Thunderer"): Zeus as a [weather god](/wiki/Weather_god)
* **Diktaios**: Zeus as lord of the [Dikte](/wiki/Dikte) mountain range, worshipped from [Mycenaean times](/wiki/Mycenaean_Greece) on Crete[[32]](#cite_note-32)\* **Ithomatas**: Worshipped at [Mount Ithome](/wiki/Mount_Ithome) in Messenia
* **Zeus Adados**: A Hellenization of the [Canaanite](/wiki/Canaanite_religion) [Hadad](/wiki/Hadad) and [Assyrian](/wiki/Assyrian_religion) [Adad](/wiki/Adad), particularly his solar cult at [Heliopolis](/wiki/Heliopolis_(Syria))<ref name=cook>[Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation).</ref>
* [**Zeus Bouleus**](/wiki/Zeus_Bouleus): Worshipped at [Dodona](/wiki/Dodona), the earliest [oracle](/wiki/Oracle), along with Zeus Naos
* **Zeus Georgos** ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang), "Zeus the Farmer"): Zeus as god of crops and the harvest, worshipped in [Athens](/wiki/Ancient_Athens)
* **Zeus Helioupolites** ("Heliopolite" or "Heliopolitan Zeus"): A Hellenization of the [Canaanite](/wiki/Canaanite_religion) [Baʿal](/wiki/Baʿal) (probably [Hadad](/wiki/Hadad)) worshipped as a [sun god](/wiki/Sun_god) at [Heliopolis](/wiki/Heliopolis_(Syria)) (modern [Baalbek](/wiki/Baalbek))<ref name=cook/>
* **Zeus Kasios** ("Zeus of [Jebel Aqra](/wiki/Jebel_Aqra)"): Worshipped at a site on the Syrian–Turkish border, a Hellenization of the [Canaanite](/wiki/Canaanite_religion) mountain and [weather god](/wiki/Weather_god) [Baal Zephon](/wiki/Baal_Zephon)
* **Zeus Labrandos** ("Zeus of [Labraunda](/wiki/Labraunda)"): Worshiped at [Caria](/wiki/Caria), depicted with a double-edged axe ([*labrys*](/wiki/Labrys)), a Hellenization of the [Hurrian](/wiki/Hurrian_religion) [weather god](/wiki/Weather_god) [Teshub](/wiki/Teshub)
* **Zeus Meilichios** ("Zeus the Easily-Entreated"): Worshipped at [Athens](/wiki/Ancient_Athens), a form of the archaic chthonic [*daimon*](/wiki/Daimon) [Meilichios](/wiki/Meilichios)
* [**Zeus Naos**](/wiki/Zeus_Naos): Worshipped at [Dodona](/wiki/Dodona), the earliest [oracle](/wiki/Oracle), along with Zeus Bouleus
* [**Zeus Tallaios**](/wiki/Talos) ("Solar Zeus"): Worshipped on [Crete](/wiki/Crete)

## Cults of Zeus[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[thumb|upright|Marble eagle from the sanctuary of *Zeus Hypsistos*,](/wiki/File:Marble_eagle_with_open_wings,_from_the_sanctuary_of_Zeus_Hypsistos,_Archaeological_Museum,_Dion_(7080054119).jpg) [Archaeological Museum of Dion](/wiki/Archaeological_Museum_of_Dion).

### Panhellenic cults[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

The major center where all Greeks converged to pay honor to their chief god was [Olympia](/wiki/Olympia,_Greece). Their quadrennial [festival](/wiki/Festival) featured the famous Games. There was also an altar to Zeus made not of stone, but of ash, from the accumulated remains of many centuries' worth of animals sacrificed there.

Outside of the major inter-[polis](/wiki/Polis) sanctuaries, there were no modes of worshipping Zeus precisely shared across the Greek world. Most of the titles listed below, for instance, could be found at any number of [Greek temples](/wiki/Greek_temple) from [Asia Minor](/wiki/Asia_Minor) to [Sicily](/wiki/Sicily). Certain modes of ritual were held in common as well: sacrificing a white animal over a raised altar, for instance.

#### Zeus Velchanos[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

With one exception, Greeks were unanimous in recognizing the birthplace of Zeus as Crete. Minoan culture contributed many essentials of ancient Greek religion: "by a hundred channels the old civilization emptied itself into the new", Will Durant observed,[[33]](#cite_note-33) and Cretan Zeus retained his youthful Minoan features. The local child of the Great Mother, "a small and inferior deity who took the roles of son and consort",[[34]](#cite_note-34) whose Minoan name the Greeks Hellenized as Velchanos, was in time assumed as an [epithet](/wiki/Epithet) by Zeus, as transpired at many other sites, and he came to be venerated in Crete as **Zeus Velchanos** ("boy-Zeus") often simply the [*Kouros*](/wiki/Kouros).

In [Crete](/wiki/Crete), Zeus was worshipped at a number of caves at [Knossos](/wiki/Knossos), [Ida](/wiki/Mount_Ida,_Crete) and [Palaikastro](/wiki/Palaikastro). In the Hellenistic period a small sanctuary dedicated to Zeus Velchanos was founded at the [Hagia Triada](/wiki/Hagia_Triada) site of a long-ruined Minoan palace. Broadly contemporary coins from [Phaistos](/wiki/Phaistos) show the form under which he was worshiped: a youth sits among the branches of a tree, with a cockerel on his knees.[[35]](#cite_note-35) On other Cretan coins Velchanos is represented as an eagle and in association with a goddess celebrating a mystic marriage.[[36]](#cite_note-36) Inscriptions at [Gortyn](/wiki/Gortyn) and Lyttos record a *Velchania* festival, showing that Velchanios was still widely venerated in Hellenistic Crete.[[37]](#cite_note-37) The stories of [Minos](/wiki/Minos) and [Epimenides](/wiki/Epimenides) suggest that these caves were once used for [incubatory](/wiki/Incubation_(ritual)) divination by kings and priests. The dramatic setting of [Plato's](/wiki/Plato) *Laws* is along the pilgrimage-route to one such site, emphasizing archaic Cretan knowledge. On Crete, Zeus was represented in art as a long-haired youth rather than a mature adult, and hymned as *ho megas kouros* "the great youth". Ivory statuettes of the "Divine Boy" were unearthed near the [Labyrinth](/wiki/Labyrinth) at [Knossos](/wiki/Knossos) by [Sir Arthur Evans](/wiki/Sir_Arthur_Evans).[[38]](#cite_note-38) With the [Kouretes](/wiki/Kouretes), a band of ecstatic armed dancers, he presided over the rigorous military-athletic training and secret rites of the Cretan [*paideia*](/wiki/Paideia).

The myth of the death of Cretan Zeus, localised in numerous mountain sites though only mentioned in a comparatively late source, [Callimachus](/wiki/Callimachus),[[39]](#cite_note-39) together with the assertion of [Antoninus Liberalis](/wiki/Antoninus_Liberalis) that a fire shone forth annually from the birth-cave the infant shared with a [mythic swarm of bees](/wiki/Bees_(mythology)), suggests that Velchanos had been an annual vegetative spirit.[[40]](#cite_note-40)The Hellenistic writer [Euhemerus](/wiki/Euhemerus) apparently proposed a theory that Zeus had actually been a great king of [Crete](/wiki/Crete) and that posthumously his glory had slowly turned him into a deity. The works of Euhemerus himself have not survived, but Christian patristic writers took up the suggestion.

#### Zeus Lykaios[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Details](/wiki/Template:Details)

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Stater_Zeus_Lampsacus_CdM.jpg)[Laurel-wreathed](/wiki/Laurel_wreath) head of Zeus on a gold [stater](/wiki/Stater), [Lampsacus](/wiki/Lampsacus), c 360–340 BC ([Cabinet des Médailles](/wiki/Cabinet_des_Médailles)). The epithet **Zeus Lykaios** ("wolf-Zeus") is assumed by Zeus only in connection with the archaic festival of the [Lykaia](/wiki/Lykaia) on the slopes of [Mount Lykaion](/wiki/Lycaeus) ("Wolf Mountain"), the tallest peak in rustic [Arcadia](/wiki/Arcadia); Zeus had only a formal connection[[41]](#cite_note-41) with the rituals and myths of this primitive [rite of passage](/wiki/Rite_of_passage) with an ancient threat of [cannibalism](/wiki/Cannibalism) and the possibility of a [werewolf](/wiki/Werewolf) transformation for the [ephebes](/wiki/Ephebos) who were the participants.[[42]](#cite_note-42) Near the ancient ash-heap where the sacrifices took place[[43]](#cite_note-43) was a forbidden precinct in which, allegedly, no shadows were ever cast.[[44]](#cite_note-44) According to [Plato](/wiki/Plato),[[45]](#cite_note-45) a particular clan would gather on the mountain to make a sacrifice every nine years to Zeus Lykaios, and a single morsel of human entrails would be intermingled with the animal's. Whoever ate the human flesh was said to turn into a wolf, and could only regain human form if he did not eat again of human flesh until the next nine-year cycle had ended. There were games associated with the Lykaia, removed in the fourth century to the first urbanization of Arcadia, [Megalopolis](/wiki/Megalopolis,_Greece); there the major temple was dedicated to Zeus Lykaios.

#### Additional cults of Zeus[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

Although etymology indicates that Zeus was originally a sky god, many Greek cities honored a local Zeus who lived underground. Athenians and Sicilians honored **Zeus Meilichios** ("kindly" or "honeyed") while other cities had **Zeus Chthonios** ("earthy"), **Zeus Katachthonios** ("under-the-earth") and **Zeus Plousios** ("wealth-bringing"). These deities might be represented as snakes or in human form in visual art, or, for emphasis as both together in one image. They also received offerings of black animal victims sacrificed into sunken pits, as did [chthonic](/wiki/Chthonic) deities like [Persephone](/wiki/Persephone) and [Demeter](/wiki/Demeter), and also the [heroes](/wiki/Hero) at their tombs. Olympian gods, by contrast, usually received white victims sacrificed upon raised altars.

In some cases, cities were not entirely sure whether the *daimon* to whom they sacrificed was a hero or an underground Zeus. Thus the shrine at Lebadaea in [Boeotia](/wiki/Boeotia) might belong to the hero [Trophonius](/wiki/Trophonius) or to **Zeus Trephonius** ("the nurturing"), depending on whether you believe [Pausanias](/wiki/Pausanias_(geographer)), or [Strabo](/wiki/Strabo). The hero [Amphiaraus](/wiki/Amphiaraus) was honored as **Zeus Amphiaraus** at Oropus outside of [Thebes](/wiki/Thebes,_Greece), and the Spartans even had a shrine to **Zeus Agamemnon**.

### Non-panhellenic cults[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

In addition to the Panhellenic titles and conceptions listed above, local cults maintained their own idiosyncratic ideas about the king of gods and men. With the epithet **Zeus** [**Aetnaeus**](/wiki/Aetnaeus) he was worshiped on [Mount Aetna](/wiki/Mount_Etna), where there was a statue of him, and a local festival called the Aetnaea in his honor.[[46]](#cite_note-46) Other examples are listed below. As **Zeus Aeneius** or **Zeus Aenesius**, he was worshiped in the island of [Cephalonia](/wiki/Cephalonia), where he had a temple on [Mount Aenos](/wiki/Mount_Ainos).[[47]](#cite_note-47)

### Oracles of Zeus[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[thumb|Roman cast](/wiki/File:Museo_Barracco_-_Giove_Ammone_1010637.JPG) [terracotta](/wiki/Terracotta) of ram-horned *Jupiter Ammon*, 1st century AD ([Museo Barracco](/wiki/Museo_Barracco), Rome).

Although most oracle sites were usually dedicated to [Apollo](/wiki/Apollo), the heroes, or various goddesses like [Themis](/wiki/Themis), a few oracular sites were dedicated to Zeus. In addition, some foreign oracles, such as [Baʿal's](/wiki/Baʿal) at [Heliopolis](/wiki/Heliopolis_(Syria)), were [associated](/wiki/Interpretatio_graeca) with Zeus in Greek or [Jupiter](/wiki/Jupiter) in Latin.

#### The Oracle at Dodona[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

The cult of Zeus at [Dodona](/wiki/Dodona) in [Epirus](/wiki/Epirus), where there is evidence of religious activity from the second millennium BC onward, centered on a sacred oak. When the [*Odyssey*](/wiki/Odyssey) was composed (circa 750 BC), divination was done there by barefoot priests called *Selloi*, who lay on the ground and observed the rustling of the leaves and branches.[[48]](#cite_note-48) By the time [Herodotus](/wiki/Herodotus) wrote about Dodona, female priestesses called [peleiades](/wiki/Peleiades) ("doves") had replaced the male priests.

Zeus's consort at Dodona was not [Hera](/wiki/Hera), but the goddess [Dione](/wiki/Dione_(Titaness/Oceanid)) — whose name is a feminine form of "Zeus". Her status as a [titaness](/wiki/Titan_(mythology)) suggests to some that she may have been a more powerful pre-Hellenic deity, and perhaps the original occupant of the oracle.

#### The Oracle at Siwa[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

The oracle of [Ammon](/wiki/Amun) at the [Siwa Oasis](/wiki/Siwa_Oasis) in the Western Desert of [Egypt](/wiki/Egypt) did not lie within the bounds of the Greek world before [Alexander's](/wiki/Alexander_the_Great) day, but it already loomed large in the Greek mind during the archaic era: [Herodotus](/wiki/Herodotus) mentions consultations with Zeus Ammon in his account of the [Persian War](/wiki/Greco-Persian_Wars). Zeus Ammon was especially favored at [Sparta](/wiki/Sparta), where a temple to him existed by the time of the [Peloponnesian War](/wiki/Peloponnesian_War).[[49]](#cite_note-49) After Alexander made a trek into the desert to consult the oracle at Siwa, the figure arose in the Hellenistic imagination of a [Libyan Sibyl](/wiki/Libyan_Sibyl).

## Zeus and foreign gods[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

Zeus was identified with the [Roman](/wiki/Roman_mythology) god [Jupiter](/wiki/Jupiter_(mythology)) and associated in the syncretic classical imagination (see [*interpretatio graeca*](/wiki/Interpretatio_graeca)) with various other deities, such as the [Egyptian](/wiki/Egyptian_mythology) [Ammon](/wiki/Amun) and the [Etruscan](/wiki/Etruscan_mythology) [Tinia](/wiki/Tinia). He, along with [Dionysus](/wiki/Dionysus), absorbed the role of the chief [Phrygian](/wiki/Phrygia) god [Sabazios](/wiki/Sabazios) in the [syncretic](/wiki/Syncretism) deity known in Rome as [Sabazius](/wiki/Sabazius). The Seleucid ruler [Antiochus IV Epiphanes](/wiki/Antiochus_IV_Epiphanes) erected a statue of Zeus Olympios in the Judean Temple in Jerusalem.[[50]](#cite_note-50) Hellenizing Jews referred to this statue as Baal Shamen (in English, Lord of Heaven).[[51]](#cite_note-51)

## Zeus in philosophy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

In [Neoplatonism](/wiki/Neoplatonism), Zeus's relation to the gods familiar from mythology is taught as the [Demiurge](/wiki/Demiurge) or Divine [Mind](/wiki/Nous). Specifically within [Plotinus's](/wiki/Plotinus) work the [*Enneads*](/wiki/Enneads)[[52]](#cite_note-52) and the *Platonic Theology* of [Proclus](/wiki/Proclus).

## Zeus in the Bible[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

Zeus is mentioned in the New Testament two times, first in Acts 14:8–13: When the people living in [Lystra](/wiki/Lystra) saw the [Apostle Paul](/wiki/Apostle_Paul) heal a lame man, they considered Paul and his partner [Barnabas](/wiki/Barnabas) to be gods, identifying Paul with [Hermes](/wiki/Hermes) and Barnabas with Zeus, even trying to offer them sacrifices with the crowd. Two ancient inscriptions discovered in 1909 near Lystra testify to the worship of these two gods in that city.[[53]](#cite_note-53) One of the inscriptions refers to the "priests of Zeus," and the other mentions "Hermes Most Great"" and "Zeus the sun-god."[[54]](#cite_note-54) The second occurrence is in Acts 28:11: the name of the ship in which the prisoner Paul set sail from the island of Malta bore the [figurehead](/wiki/Figurehead) "Sons of Zeus" aka [Castor and Pollux](/wiki/Castor_and_Pollux).

The deuterocanonical book of [2 Maccabees](/wiki/2_Maccabees) 6:1, 2 talks of King [Antiochus IV](/wiki/Antiochus_IV) (Epiphanes), who in his attempt to stamp out the Jewish religion, directed that the temple at Jerusalem be profaned and rededicated to Zeus (Jupiter Olympius).[[55]](#cite_note-55)

## Zeus in the ''Iliad''[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

The [*Iliad*](/wiki/Iliad) is a poem by [Homer](/wiki/Homer) about the [Trojan war](/wiki/Trojan_war) and the battle over the City of [Troy](/wiki/Troy). As God of the sky, lightning, thunder, law, order, justice, Zeus controlled [Ancient Greece](/wiki/Ancient_Greece) and all of the [mortals](/wiki/Mortals) and [immortals](/wiki/Immortality) living there.[[56]](#cite_note-56) The Iliad covers the Trojan War, in which Zeus plays a major part. By controlling many of the character's fate, he is arguably the most important character in the text.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Notable Scenes that include Zeus[[57]](#cite_note-57)[[58]](#cite_note-58)\* Book 2: Zeus sends [Agamemnon](/wiki/Agamemnon) a dream and is able to partially control his decisions because of the effects of the dream

* Book 4: Zeus promises [Hera](/wiki/Hera) to ultimately destroy the City of Troy at the end of the war
* Book 7: Zeus and [Poseidon](/wiki/Poseidon) ruin the [Achaeans](/wiki/Achaeans_(Homer)) fortress
* Book 8: Zeus prohibits the other Gods from fighting each other and has to return to [Mount Ida](/wiki/Mount_Ida) where he can think over his decision that the Greeks will lose the war
* Book 14: Zeus is seduced by [Hera](/wiki/Hera) and becomes distracted while she helps out the Greeks
* Book 15: Zeus wakes up and realizes that [Poseidon](/wiki/Poseidon) his own brother has been helping out the Greeks, while also sending [Hector](/wiki/Hector) and [Apollo](/wiki/Apollo) to help fight the Trojans ensuring that the City of Troy will fall
* Book 16: Zeus is upset that he couldn't help save Sarpedon's life because it would then contradict his previous decisions
* Book 17: Zeus is emotionally hurt by the fate of [Hector](/wiki/Hector)
* Book 20: Zeus lets the other Gods help out their respective sides in the war
* Book 24: Zeus demands that [Achilles](/wiki/Achilles) (his son) release the corpse of [Hector](/wiki/Hector) to be buried honourably

[thumb|A statue of Zeus in a drawing.](/wiki/File:Statue_of_Zeus.jpg)

[thumb|A bust of Zeus.](/wiki/File:Otricoli_Zeus_-_1889_drawing.jpg)

## Zeus's notable conflicts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

The most notable conflict in Zeus's history was his struggle for power. Zeus's parents [Cronus](/wiki/Cronus) and [Rhea](/wiki/Rhea_(mythology)) ruled the Ancient World after taking control from [Uranus](/wiki/Uranus_(mythology)), Cronus's father. When [Cronus](/wiki/Cronus) realized that he wanted power for the rest of time he started to eat his children, Hestia, Demeter, Hera, Hades, and Poseidon. When [Rhea](/wiki/Rhea_(mythology)) realized what was going on, she quickly saved their youngest child, Zeus. Having escaped death, Zeus was spared because of the swiftness of Rhea tricking Cronus into thinking she consumed Zeus. She wrapped a stone in a blanket, and [Cronus](/wiki/Cronus) swallowed it thinking he was swallowing his last child.[[59]](#cite_note-59) As a result of this, Zeus was shipped off to live on the island of [Crete](/wiki/Crete).

When Zeus was atop Mount Olympus he grew upset with mankind and the sacrifices they were performing on one another. Furiously, he decided it would be smart to wipe out mankind with a gigantic flood using the help of his brother [Poseidon](/wiki/Poseidon), King of the Seas. Killing every human except [Deucalion](/wiki/Deucalion) and Pyrrah, Zeus flooded the entire planet but then realized he then had to restore society with new people. After clearing all the water, he had Deucalion and Pyrrah create humans to repopulate the earth using stones that became humans. These stones represented the "hardness" of mankind and the man life. This story has been told different ways and in different time periods between Ancient Greek Mythology and The Bible, although the base of the story remains true.[[60]](#cite_note-60) Throughout history Zeus has used violence to get his way, or even terrorize humans. As God of the sky he has the power to hurl lightning bolts as his weapon of choice. Since lightning is quite powerful and sometimes deadly, it is a bold sign when lightning strikes because it is known that Zeus most likely threw the bolt.[[61]](#cite_note-61)

## In modern culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

Depictions of Zeus as a bull, the form he took when raping [Europa](/wiki/Europa_(mythology)), are found on the Greek 2-[euro](/wiki/Euro_(currency)) coin and on the [United Kingdom](/wiki/United_Kingdom) identity card for visa holders. [Mary Beard](/wiki/Mary_Beard_(classicist)), professor of Classics at [Cambridge University](/wiki/Cambridge_University), has criticised this for its apparent celebration of rape.[[62]](#cite_note-62)

## Genealogy of the Olympians[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

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## Argive genealogy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Argive genealogy in Greek mythology](/wiki/Template:Argive_genealogy_in_Greek_mythology)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Achaean League](/wiki/Achaean_League)
* [Agetor](/wiki/Agetor)
* [Deception of Zeus](/wiki/Deception_of_Zeus)
* [Hetairideia](/wiki/Hetairideia) – Thessalian Festival to Zeus
* [Temple of Zeus, Olympia](/wiki/Temple_of_Zeus,_Olympia)

## Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

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[Template:Refend](/wiki/Template:Refend)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Commons](/wiki/Template:Commons)

* [Greek Mythology Link, Zeus](http://www.maicar.com/GML/Zeus.html) stories of Zeus in myth
* [Theoi Project, Zeus](http://www.theoi.com/Olympios/Zeus.html) summary, stories, classical art
* [Theoi Project, Cult Of Zeus](http://www.theoi.com/Cult/ZeusCult.html) cult and statues
* [Photo: Pagans Honor Zeus at Ancient Athens Temple](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2007/01/070122-pagans-athens.html) from National Geographic

[Template:Greek religion](/wiki/Template:Greek_religion) [Template:Greek mythology (deities)](/wiki/Template:Greek_mythology_(deities)) [Template:Greek myth (Olympian)](/wiki/Template:Greek_myth_(Olympian))

[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Category:Zeus](/wiki/Category:Zeus) [Category:Deities in the Iliad](/wiki/Category:Deities_in_the_Iliad) [Category:Justice gods](/wiki/Category:Justice_gods) [Category:God](/wiki/Category:God) [Category:Mythological kings](/wiki/Category:Mythological_kings) [Category:Mythological rapists](/wiki/Category:Mythological_rapists) [Category:Names of God](/wiki/Category:Names_of_God) [Category:Oracular gods](/wiki/Category:Oracular_gods) [Category:Savior gods](/wiki/Category:Savior_gods) [Category:Shapeshifting](/wiki/Category:Shapeshifting) [Category:Sky and weather gods](/wiki/Category:Sky_and_weather_gods) [Category:Thunder gods](/wiki/Category:Thunder_gods)