

SHORT ANSWER STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS **ANSWER KEY** *Mythology*

Part One *The Gods, the Creation, and the Earliest Heroes*

Chapter 3 *How the World and Mankind Were Created* Chapter 4 *The Earliest Heroes*

1. What did the Greeks think was at the very beginning of things?
They thought Chaos, or formless confusion, was at the very beginning.
2. What were the next six creations, in order?
Night and Erebus, the children of Chaos, were created next. They created Love, who created Light and Day. Then Earth was created, although the method was never explained.
3. Who was Cronus, and why was he significant?
Cronus was a Titan. He wounded his father, Heaven, and became Lord of the Universe. Cronus ate five of his six children because he knew that one of them would one day dethrone him.
4. How did Zeus become the ruler of heaven and earth?
His mother, Rhea, hid Zeus from Cronus when he was born. When Zeus was grown he forced Cronus to disgorge his five siblings. Zeus and his brothers warred against Cronus and the Titans. Zeus eventually mastered the use of thunder and lightning, his brother and sister gods became more powerful, and they defeated Cronus and the Titans.
5. Describe the Greek concept of the geography of the Earth.
The Greeks thought the Earth was a round disk divided into two parts by the Sea. The great river, Ocean, flowed around the Earth. The land of the dead was on Ocean's bank.
6. Briefly retell the story of Prometheus's creation of mankind.
Prometheus created mankind after his brother created the animals. He gave man an upright shape like the gods. To protect them, Prometheus gave men the gift of fire.
7. Who was Pandora, and why was she created?
Pandora means "the gift of all." She was the first woman, and was lovely. Zeus created her to punish mankind for tricking him into accepting the fat and bones of any sacrificial animals. He intended Pandora, and all subsequent women, to be beautiful, but an evil to men.
8. Briefly retell the story of Pandora's Box.
The gods gave Pandora a box full of harmful things, and told her not to open it. She was curious and lifted the lid. All of the troubles of the world flew out. Hope also came out of the box.

9. Why did Zeus punish Prometheus, and how did he do this?

Prometheus had stolen fire for mankind, and had also arranged for them to receive the best part of sacrificial animals. Prometheus was also the only one who knew who would be the mother of the son who would dethrone Zeus. Zeus had his servants, Force and Violence, bind Prometheus to a rock. Every day an eagle would come down and eat Prometheus's liver. Prometheus never gave in, but he was eventually released.

10. Who was Io?

Io was a maiden with whom Zeus fell in love. He turned her into a calf to fool Hera, and was forced to leave her that way. Eventually she was returned to human form. Hercules was a direct descendent of Io.

11. Briefly retell the story of Europa.

Europa was a beautiful maiden. Aphrodite and Cupid shot Zeus with an arrow and made him fall in love with Europa. He changed into a bull and carried her away from her home to the island of Crete. The sons of Europa and Zeus became famous.

12. Briefly retell the story of Polyphemus.

Polyphemus was the Cyclops whom Odysseus encountered on his way home from the Trojan War. Polyphemus was fierce and ill-natured. He captured Odysseus and his men in his cave and ate several of them. Odysseus and his men got Polyphemus drunk and put out his one eye with a red-hot spike. They escaped from the cave by tying themselves to the undersides of Polyphemus' rams. Polyphemus could feel along the backs of the rams when they left his cave, but he could not tell that the men were holding on underneath.

13. What is the story of Narcissus?

Narcissus was a beautiful lad who refused to fall in love with any maiden. The goddess Nemesis made him fall in love with his reflection in a pool. He would not look away from his reflection, and so he died. A lovely flower bloomed on the spot where he died, and it was named after him.

14. Who was Echo?

Echo was a nymph. Hera punished her unjustly by condemning her to only be able to repeat what was said. Echo was in love with Narcissus, but was not able to tell him so. She wasted away, and only her voice was left.

15. What is the story of Adonis?

Aphrodite and Persephone were both in love with Adonis. Zeus declared that he should spend half of the year with each of them. One day while he was hunting he was gored by a boar and died. The red flowers called anemones bloomed on his drops of blood.