

CHAPTER 1: THE OLYMPIAN GODS

The Olympian gods

1. Why were the major gods called the Olympian gods?

Jupiter, king of the gods

2. Why did Saturn swallow his children?

3. How did Jupiter avoid being swallowed by his father, Saturn?

Trouble on Mount Olympus: Juno and Vulcan

4. Different ancient authors tell different stories about how and why Vulcan was cast out of Mount Olympus. According to one author Jupiter threw Vulcan from Mount Olympus after Vulcan tried to free _______. Another ancient author wrote that Juno threw Vulcan from Mount Olympus because ______.

Vengeful gods: Vulcan and Venus

5. How did Vulcan convince Jupiter to allow him to marry Venus?

Wisdom and war: Minerva and Mars

Consider Figure 1.5: Birth of Minerva

- How do you know which figure is Vulcan? ______
- Retell the myth of Minerva's birth in your own words.



The power of the gods

7. How did the Romans explain the cycle of seasons? Why did they think that plants and crops stop growing during the winter?

8. Which god or goddess do you think was most impressive? Why?