

Vocabulary from Mythology

The Titans and Olympians

CHAOS:

ruler of emptiness, disorder, and confusion

- Chaos- hopeless confusion
- Chasm- a huge, open gulf or crack in the earth's surface
- Chaotic- completely confused and mixed up

GAEA:

**mother earth; name comes from root *geo*-
meaning “earth”**

- Geography- science of the earth's surface, its continents, climates, and natural resources
- Geometry- branch of math measuring points, lines, planets, and solids of the earth
- Geophysics- science that deals with weather, winds, tides, and their effect on the earth
- Geocentric- describing the earth as the center of the universe with the sun, moon, and planets revolving around it

URANUS:

father sky

- Uranus- planet in our solar system; 7th in distance from the sun
- Uranium- metal named after the planet Uranus; important element in the production of atomic energy
- Uranology- study of the sky; also known as astronomy

Titans:

beautiful children of GAEA and URANUS

- Titanic- describing anything very, very big
- The Titanic- built in 1911; huge luxury ship, thought to be unsinkable
- Titanosaurus- prehistoric animal living in the dinosaur age; a monstrous lizard
- Titan Missile- huge missile developed by NASA
- Titanium- lustrous, metallic chemical found in certain minerals; power cleaning agent used during process of making steel

GIANTS:

ugly, ferocious children of GAEA and URANUS

- Gigantic- describing anything extremely large
- Gigantism- disease in which a person grows to unusual size due to an excess of human growth hormones

CYCLOPES:

one-eyed giants

- Cyclopean- describing anything massive or huge

SATURN:

TITAN son of URANUS; drove his father away to become ruler of the universe; honored by lavish feasts and excessive parties

- Saturnalia- wild, disorderly party
- Saturn- planet in our solar system; 6th in distance from the sun
- Saturday- 7th day of the week; term traces back to Romans who named their days after the gods
- Saturnine- in astrology, referring to someone born under influence of planet Saturn; also describes anything silent, gloomy, or sluggish

JUPITER:

son of SATURN, destined to be the new lord of the universe; also called “Jove”

- Jupiter- 5th planet in our solar system
- “By Jove!”- traditional exclamation meaning “My God!”
- Jovial- describing someone jolly, good-humored, and full of fun; people born under influence of Jupiter are thought to be jolly
- Joviality- quality of being jovial or jolly

CORNUCOPIA:

horn of magic goat Amalthea who raised JUPITER; horn is always filled with food or drink; “horn of plenty” in Latin

- Cornucopia- representation of a horn filled with fruits, flowers, and corn; signifies prosperity
- Copious- abundant or plentiful

ATLAS:

strongest of the TITANS; punished for rebellion in war against JUPITER by supporting the heavens, and later earth, on his shoulders

- Atlas- book of maps
- Atlas Bone- bone at top of spine where bone meets head; supports globe of head
- Atlantosaurus- ancient dinosaur said to be the biggest of all
- Atlantic Ocean- named after ATLANTIDES, the daughters of ATLAS, who were minor sea goddesses associated with the great ocean far to the west of Greece