



This carving from Delphi c.525BC shows the battle between the gods and giants.

THE NEW GODS

The new Greek gods were known as Olympians, because people believed they inhabited a land high above the clouds on Mount Olympus. They lived like a large family, with Zeus as the head. No humans could visit Olympus, except by special invitation. The gods often visited the Earth, though. Sometimes they even fell in love with humans, and had children with them. Many heroes in Greek myths were born in this way and were half-human and half-god.

Zeus then led his brothers and sisters in revolt against Cronos and the other Titans. After a bitter struggle, the younger gods defeated the older ones and divided the world among themselves. Zeus became ruler of the sky and King of all the gods, with Hera as his queen. Poseidon was King of the Ocean; Pluto, King of the Underworld; Hestia, goddess of the hearth and home; and Demeter, goddess of plants and harvests.

This scene from a vase painting shows Pluto, god of the Underworld, and Persephone, Demeter's daughter.



This giant bronze statue of Poseidon, god of the sea, was found in the Aegean. The eyes are missing, but they would have been inlaid with jewels or semi-precious stones.

