

Supreme gods in Greek and Chinese religions: ZEUS AND THE JADE EMPEROR

ANSWER KEY

ACTIVITY ONE: SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES:

Task: Look at these two pictures, on the left is an image of Zeus, and on the right is an image of the Jade Emperor. Think about these questions:

1. What are the gods holding in their hands?

Answer: A thunderbolt and a spear / a jade tablet (which shows his official rank).

2. What do they wear on their heads?

Answer: A simple headband/a fancy headdress.

3. What clothes are they dressed in?

Answer: A tunic [an everyday robe] / formal official clothing.

4. Is anyone else in the picture, if so, who?

Answer: No followers for Zeus / female attendants for the Jade Emperor.

Now look at these two images of Zeus and the Jade Emperor. Think about these questions:

1. What are they sitting on?

Answer: A small throne / A decorated platform.

2. What comes out of their heads?

Answer: One of Zeus' children (Athena) / light.

3. What clothes are they wearing?

Answer: A decorated tunic / more casual clothing.

4. What position are they seated in?

Answer: an active position / a calm posture.

ACTIVITY TWO: LADDERS GAME (TO DO IN PAIRS).

Q: Who uses the thunderbolt as a weapon?

A: Zeus (Jade Emperor has no physical weapon and instead instructs others to do his work)

Q: Who lives in the Ninth Heaven?

A: Jade Emperor (Zeus lives on Mount Olympus)

Q: Who wears a fancy headdress?

A: Jade Emperor (Zeus wears a simple headband)

ANSWER KEY

Q: Who wears bright and formal clothing?

A: Jade Emperor (Zeus' clothing is simpler)

Q: Who is depicted as seated on a throne?

A: Both (Zeus sits on a small throne and the Jade Emperor sits on a decorated platform)

Q: Who is often called upon when people swear or make a vow?

A: Both (By Zeus! and My Heaven!)

Q: Who is the god people often prayed directly to?

A: Zeus (people did not pray directly to the Jade Emperor)

Q: Who has many children who are also gods?

A: Zeus (The Jade Emperor seems to have no children known as gods)

Q: Who has a wife?

A: Both (Hera and the Empress)