

# HESTIA

**Greek name** Ἑστία

**Latin name** Vesta

**Name in your language**

**Parents** Cronus and Rhea

**Role** goddess of the hearth, home, family, state

**Home** Mount Olympus

**Attributes** kettle

**Pets** pig

Hestia was at the same time the eldest and the youngest among the children of Cronus and Rhea. How could it be? The Titan Cronus had the notoriously bad habit of swallowing his own children. He would do that to avoid a prophecy he was once told: one of his children would overthrow his rule (in the end, Zeus did it!). When Zeus, the youngest son, grew up, he forced Cronus, not without his mother Rhea's help, to spit out all his siblings (to save the new-born Zeus, Rhea tricked Cronus into swallowing a stone instead of the baby!). As for Hestia, by all means, she was the first-born child and the first one to be guzzled by Cronus. But, at the same time, she was also the last one to eventually be spit out. This made her the eldest and the youngest sister. Hestia held very dear the domesticity and safety of the home, standing guard at the hearth. Zeus knew his sister well: to please her, he bestowed upon her a place of honour at the hearth on Mount Olympus. From that moment on, she became the patroness of all the hearths both on Mount Olympus and on the whole Earth, incessantly feeding domestic fires.

