

Mythology Study Guide

Greek Name	Roman Name	Duty	Symbol
Zeus	Jupiter, Jove	King, weather	Thunderbolt, eagle
Hera	Juno	Queen, marriage	Peacock, cow
Poseidon	Neptune	Sea, earthquakes, horses	Trident, horse
Hades	Pluto, Dis	Underworld, wealth	Bident, helmet of invisibility
Demeter	Ceres	Agriculture	Stalk of wheat
Hestia	Vesta	Home fire, hearth	Hearth, fire
Ares	Mars	War	Spear, dog, vulture
Hephaestus	Vulcan	Blacksmith	Forge, anvil
Apollo	Apollo	Sun, prophecy, medicine, music	Sun, oracle at Delphi, lyre
Artemis	Diana	Hunting, moon	Bow/arrow, moon
Athena	Minerva	Wisdom, war, handicrafts	Owl, olive, helmet
Aphrodite	Venus	Love and beauty	Dove, rose
Hermes	Mercury	Messengers, laughter, thieves	Caduceus, winged sandals
Dionysus	Bacchus	Wine, life-giving fluids	Grape leaves, thyrsus (stick with pinecone on top)
Persephone	Proserpina	Queen of underworld	Pomegranate

Greek Mythological Characters and their Parents

	<u>Mother</u>	<u>Father</u>
1. Theseus	Aethra	Aegeus (Poseidon?)
2. Perseus	Danae	Zeus
3. Heracles	Alcmene	Zeus (mortal dad =Amphitryon)
4. Achilles	Thetis	Peleus
5. Aeneas	Aphrodite	Anchises
6. Hector/Paris/ Cassandra/Helenus	Hecuba	Priam
7. Agamemnon/ Menelaus	Aerope	Atreus
8. Orestes/Electra/ Iphigenia	Clytemnestra	Agamemnon
9. Jason	Alcimide	Aeson
10. Odysseus	Anticlea	Laertes
11. Medea		Aeetes
12. Daphne		Peneius
13. Ariadne/Phaedra	Pasiphae	Minos
14. Astyanax	Andromache	Hector
15. Ascanius(Iulus)	Creusa	Aeneas
16. Andromeda	Cassiopeia	Cepheus
17. Dionysus	Semele	Zeus
18. Hermes	Maia	Zeus
19. Apollo/Artemis	Leto	Zeus
20. Sarpedon/Minos/ Rhadamanthys	Europa	Zeus
21. Aeacus	Aegina	Zeus
22. Helen/Polydeuces	Leda	Zeus
23. Clytemnestra/Castor	Leda	Tyndareus
24. Telemachus	Penelope	Odysseus

Mythological People Notes

Arachne – boasted better weaver than Athena; turned into a spider

Atalanta – fastest runner; run faster to marry her; Hippomenes used Golden Apples to beat her; forgot to thank Aphrodite – turned into lions

Midas – golden touch; said Pan was a better musician than Apollo – donkey ears – reeds

Icarus – flew too close to sun with wings dad (Daedalus) made; Icarian sea

Bellerophon – tamed Pegasus with a golden bridle; killed Chimaera; tried to fly Pegasus to Olympus

Phaethon – asked dad (sun god) to drive chariot of sun; couldn't handle horses, burned earth, etc; lightning bolt

Deucalion and Pyrrha – repopulated earth with stones thrown over their shoulders

Baucis and Philemon – hospitable to Zeus and Hermes dressed as beggars; became priests of Zeus' temple; died together – became trees (oak and linden)

Pyramus and Thisbe – Romeo and Juliet; talked through crack in wall; met at mulberry bush; he kills himself when he thinks she was eaten by a lion, then she kills herself; mulberries turn red.

Aurora and Tithonus – She is goddess of Dawn, asks Zeus for immortality for Tithonus – forgets to ask for eternal youth – grasshopper.

Meleager – son of Oeneus and Althaea; kills Calydonian Boar; gives Atalanta trophy; uncles mad – fight – he kills uncles; mom kills him by burning the log that had the same life span.

Punished in Underworld

- 1 IXION – spinning wheel of fire
- 2 TITYUS – bird eats liver daily
- 3 SISYPHUS – rolls boulder up hill
- 4 TANTALUS – eternal hunger and thirst
- 5 DANAIDS – 49 sisters who carry water in leaky bucket

Heracles Notes:

- Heracles was born with the name Alcides to Alcmene and Zeus (Zeus visited Alcmene as her husband Amphytrion).
- Heracles has a twin, Iphicles, whose dad is Amphytrion
- Hera always hated Heracles – when he was 8 months she sent 2 snakes to kill him (he strangled them); she made him go insane and he killed his wife Megaera and their children
- Heracles went to the oracle at Delphi after he killed his wife and children.
- The oracle told him to change his name to Heracles (“the glory of Hera”) and go to his cousin Eurystheus to do 12 Labors.
- The 12 Labors:
 1. Slay the Nemean Lion.
 2. Slay the 9-headed Lernaean Hydra.
 3. Capture the Golden Hind of Artemis.
 4. Capture the Erymanthian Boar.
 5. Clean the Augean stables in a single day.
 6. Slay the Stymphalian Birds.
 7. Capture the Cretan Bull.
 8. Steal the Mares of Diomedes.
 9. Obtain the Girdle of the Amazon Queen.
 10. Obtain the Cattle of the Monster Geryon.
 11. Steal the Apples of the Hesperides.
 12. Capture Cerberus.
- Deianeira was Heracles’ second wife. She was attacked by the centaur (a centaur is the body of a horse with the torso and head of a man) Nessus – he gave her his blood as a love potion; but it was really poison.
- When Deianeira used the love potion on a cloak for Heracles, he was burning. He asked Philoctetes to build his funeral pyre.
- At the death of his “mortal” parts, Heracles was made a god and married Hebe (goddess of youth and daughter of Hera).

Jason Notes:

- Jason's father, Aeson, was king of Iolcus.
- Then Aeson's brother Pelias took over Iolcus with his army.
- Aeson sent Jason away to be raised by the centaur Chiron so he would not be killed by Pelias.
- Pelias heard an oracle that he should beware the man with one shoe.
- When Jason is old enough, he returns to Iolcus. He loses a shoe helping an old lady cross a river (Hera in disguise). Pelias cannot kill him because the people are happy to see him return. Pelias suggests that Jason gets the Golden Fleece.
- Then Golden Fleece once was a flying golden ram which was flown to Colchis by Phrixus and his sister Helle.
- Jason gathers a crew for his ship, the Argo, and they go to Colchis to get the fleece. The fleece is sometimes said to have had magical/healing powers and it is made of gold.
- Jason and the Argonauts must sail through the Clashing Rocks (Symplegades) and other dangers to get to the land of Colchis. When there, King Aetes has Jason sow the ground with fire breathing bulls, plant teeth of a dragon and fight the men who grow from these teeth.
- Medea, the daughter of Aetes, helps Jason with these tasks and helps him get the Golden Fleece. She even kills her brother Absyrtus to help them escape.
- Once back in Greece, Medea has the daughters of Pelias take revenge on their father and she and Jason sail to Corinth. They live there with their sons for 10 years. Then, He falls in love with the princess of Corinth, Glauce, and decides to divorce Medea and marry Glauce. Medea is so angry she kills Glauce and their children.
- Jason ends up sad and lonely. One day, when visiting his ship, the Argo, a piece of the ship falls off and kills him.

Theseus Notes:

- His mom is Aethra, princess of Troezen, his dad is Aegeus, king of Athens (some say Poseidon). Aegeus leaves a sword and pair of sandals for Theseus under a boulder. When Theseus is old enough to lift the boulder, they are his and he should visit his father in Athens.
- When it is time for Theseus to visit Athens, he chooses to go by land, because it is difficult (many dangerous bandits).
 1. He encounters and defeats: Periphetes – beats people with golden club
 2. Sinis – pine-bender – tied people to two trees (ripped apart)
 3. Sciron – makes people wash feet, pushes off cliff to man-eating turtle
 4. Procrustes – stretcher ;inn-keeper who stretches people to fit bed
- Before Theseus had arrived in Athens, Androgeos, son of Minos, king of Crete, had been killed by the Marathonian Bull, and so Minos demanded 7 youths and 7 maidens be sent to him from Athens every 7 years to feed the Minotaur. Theseus went as one of the 7 youths.
- The Minotaur was housed in the Labyrinth on the island of Crete.
- Daedalus the inventor, devised the Labyrinth and was kept on the island of Crete, with his son Icarus, by King Minos.
- Ariadne, daughter of Minos, told Theseus to use yarn to find his way out of the Labyrinth.
- Ariadne accompanied Theseus on his way to Athens. They stopped on the island of Naxos, where the god Dionysus came to Theseus in a dream and asked him to leave Ariadne on the island.
- Theseus left Ariadne on Naxos, where she met Dionysus and married him.
- Aegeus had asked Theseus to put up a white sail if he was successful against the Minotaur. In his excitement, Theseus forgot to take down the black sails. Aegeus saw the black sails of the ship returning and jumped into the sea from a cliff (thus naming the sea “Aegean.”).

Perseus Notes:

- Acrisius put his daughter Danae in a bronze tower because he heard from an oracle that any of her children would kill him.
- Zeus saw her and visited her as a shower of gold and they had a son named Perseus.
- Acrisius put Danae and Perseus in a box and set it out to sea. They drifted ashore at the island of Seriphos. A fisherman named Dictys found them and brought them home to stay with his family. Dictys was the brother of the king Polydectes.
- When he grew up, Perseus had no money for a present for the king, so he promised to bring him the head of Medusa the Gorgon, whose look could turn men to stone.
- With the help of Hermes, Athena, the Graiae (sisters of the Gorgons, they shared 1 eye and 1 tooth among the 3 of them), and the Nymphs of the North (Stygian Nymphs) he found his way to Medusa with a curved sword, invisible helmet, winged sandals, and a bag that could be any size.
- Perseus used the shiny part of his shield to “see” Medusa by her reflection. He killed her with the sword. Pegasus and Chrysaor sprung from her neck after he cut off her head. Perseus put her head in the bag. He wore the helmet of invisibility to escape Medusa’s 2 sister Gorgon’s (Euryale and Stheno) and flew off.
- On the way back to Seriphos, he passed Ethiopia, which was ruled by King Cepheus and Queen Cassiopeia. Cassiopeia had boasted that her daughter Andromeda was more beautiful than the Nereid , Thetis. Thetis thus sent Ceto, the sea-monster and Andromeda was sacrificed to Ceto (instead of the whole city). Perseus slew the monster and claimed Andromeda in marriage. Her fiancé Phineus was upset by this and soon turned to stone by the head of Medusa.
- On returning to Seriphos, Perseus turned Polydectes to stone and gave the head of Medusa to Athena to put on her shield.
- Before settling down, Perseus and Andromeda travelled to Larissa for an athletic event. When Perseus threw the discus in the contest, he slipped and hit an old man in the crowd by mistake. This man was Acrisius, his grandfather, and so, the oracle that a son of Danae would kill Acrisius, came true.

Lists:

9 MUSES:

1. Calliope (Epic Poetry)
2. Clio (History)
3. Erato (Love Poetry)
4. Euterpe (Music)
5. Melpomene (Tragedy)
6. Polyhymnia (Hymns)
7. Terpsichore (Dance)
8. Thaleia (Comedy)
9. Urania (Astronomy)

3 Graces (Charites):

1. Aglaia (Beauty)
2. Euphrosyne (Mirth)
3. Thalia (Good Cheer)

3 Fates (Moirae/Parcae):

1. Clotho (spinner)
2. Lachesis (allotter)
3. Atropos (cutter of the thread/inevitable)

3 Furies (Erinyes/Eumenides):

1. Alecto
2. Megaera
3. Tisiphone

5 Rivers in the Underworld:

1. Styx (hate/ oaths of gods)
2. Lethe (forgetfulness)
3. Plegethon (fire)
4. Cocytus (wailing)
5. Acheron (pain)

Monsters

- Charybdis -- whirlpool
- Chimera – part lion, goat, snake
- Cerberus – 3 headed dog
- Centaur -- Horse's body/man's torso, head, arms
- Echidna -- mother of all monsters – half nymph, half snake
- Orthus – 2 headed dog
- Satyr – part goat, part man
- Scylla – six-headed monster
- Polyphemus -- Cyclops, one-eyed giant

Homeric Heroes:

Greeks:

- Menelaus – King of Sparta, husband of Helen
- Agamemnon – King of Mycenae/king of the Greeks; husband of Clytemnestra
- Achilles – Best fighter of Greeks; son of Pelias and Thetis
- Ajax the Greater – 2nd greatest fighter of Greeks, vied with Odysseus for Achilles' armor (lost)
- Odysseus – thought up wooden horse; King of Ithaca, husband of Penelope, father of Telemachus; took 10 years to return home from Trojan War.

Trojans:

- Priam -- King of Troy; name means "ransomed one"/ originally named Podarces
- Hecuba – wife of Priam; mother of Hector, Priam, Cassandra, Helenus and others
- Hector – best fighter of Trojans, killed by Achilles
- Paris – son of Priam, "stole" Helen, killed Achilles with an arrow (with help of Apollo)