

Greek Myths - Infer

Name: _____

The Beginning of Everything: A Greek Myth

- Why do you think Chaos is described as "a dark, endless emptiness" instead of a person or a place?
- What clues in the text show that Gaea was important in the creation of the world?
- Why might Uranus be described as covering Gaea with a "blanket of stars"?
- What does the text suggest about the relationship between Gaea and Uranus?
- How can we tell that Tartarus was meant to be a frightening place?
- What does the story suggest about the role of Eros in creation?
- Why do you think Nyx is described as "dark and mysterious"?
- How is Hemera different from Nyx, based on what the text tells us?
- What might the arrival of creatures and gods suggest about what happens next in the story?
- Why do you think the author chose to end the passage by repeating that it all started with Chaos?



Choose two questions. Answer them below: (highlight the questions that you choose)

- 1) _____
- _____
- 2) _____
- _____

The War of the Titans: A Battle for the World

- Why did Cronus swallow his children instead of letting them live?
- What does Rhea's plan to hide Zeus tell us about her character?
- Why didn't Cronus realize that Rhea had tricked him with the rock?
- What can we tell about Zeus based on the way he rescued his siblings?
- Why did the battle between the Titans and Olympians last so long?
- What advantage did the Olympians have that helped them win the war?
- Why was it important that Zeus freed the Cyclopes and the Hundred-Handed Ones?
- What does the gift of lightning, the helmet, and the trident suggest about each brother's role in the war?
- Why do you think the Olympians sent the Titans to Tartarus instead of forgiving them?
- What does the ending of the story suggest about what might happen next in Greek mythology?



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- 1) _____
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Prometheus and Epimetheus: The Fire Bringer and the Gift Giver

What does the difference between Prometheus and Epimetheus tell us about how they make decisions?

Why did Prometheus feel the need to steal fire for humans?

What can we tell about Zeus from his reaction to Prometheus giving fire to humans?

Why is fire described as a "powerful gift"?

What does Prometheus's punishment tell us about how serious his actions were to the gods?

Why didn't Prometheus regret his decision, even though he suffered every day?

What might Zeus have hoped to achieve by sending Pandora and the jar to Earth?

Why do you think Pandora opened the jar even though she was told not to?

What does the fact that "Hope" remained in the jar suggest about the message of the story?

Why is Prometheus seen as a hero, even though he disobeyed the gods?



Choose two questions. Answer them below: (highlight the questions that you choose)

1) _____

2) _____

The Olympian Family: Rulers of Mount Olympus

Why do you think Mount Olympus is described as "hidden from mortal eyes"?

What can we tell about Zeus's leadership style from how he used his thunderbolt?

How did Poseidon's reaction to losing the contest for Athens show something about his personality?

Why do you think Hades is often feared, even though he's not considered evil?

What does the story of Demeter and Persephone help explain about the natural world?

Why might Hestia be respected even though she wasn't as involved in dramatic stories?

What does Athena's way of helping Odysseus show about her values?

Why do you think Aphrodite's beauty sometimes caused problems?

How did Hermes use his cleverness to solve a problem with Apollo?

What lesson might the story of Artemis and the hunter Actaeon teach ancient Greeks?



Choose two questions. Answer them below: (highlight the questions that you choose)

1) _____

2) _____

The Story of Daphne: The Girl Who Became a Tree

Why did Daphne prefer the forest and wild places over city life?

What does Daphne's reaction to Apollo show about how she feels about love and relationships?

Why did Eros shoot Apollo with a gold arrow and Daphne with a lead one?

Why didn't Daphne stop running even when Apollo said he meant no harm?

What does Daphne asking her father for help tell us about how desperate she was?

How did Daphne's transformation into a tree protect her?

Why do you think Apollo honored Daphne by making the laurel tree sacred?

What does the laurel crown becoming a symbol of victory suggest about the way people saw Daphne's story?

Why might the story say that "love can't be forced"?

What does this myth teach us about the value of personal freedom?



Choose two questions. Answer them below: (highlight the questions that you choose)

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The Story of Arachne: The Girl Who Challenged a Goddess

Why did people believe Arachne's weaving talent was a gift from the gods?

What does Arachne's reaction to praise tell us about her personality?

Why did the people warn Arachne not to insult the gods?

Why do you think Athena gave Arachne a chance to take back her words before the contest?

What does it say about Arachne that she refused to back down, even in front of a goddess?

Why was Athena angry about Arachne's tapestry if it was perfect?

What does Arachne trying to take her own life show about how she felt after the contest?

Why did Athena turn Arachne into a spider instead of letting her die?

What lesson does the story teach about pride and talent?

How does this myth explain something in the natural world?



Choose two questions. Answer them below: (highlight the questions that you choose)

1) _____

2) _____

The Story of King Midas: The Man with the Golden Touch

What does Midas's love for gold tell us about what he thought would make him happy?

Why did Midas make his wish without thinking carefully?

Why did Dionysus warn Midas to be careful before granting the wish?

At first, why was Midas excited about his new power?

What made Midas realize his gift was actually a curse?

Why do you think turning his daughter into gold was the moment Midas changed his mind?

Why did Dionysus agree to take away Midas's golden touch?

What does Midas washing in the river symbolize in the story?

What lesson do you think Midas learned by the end of the myth?

Why is the story of King Midas still important or meaningful today?



Choose two questions. Answer them below: (highlight the questions that you choose)

1) _____

2) _____

The Story of Echo and Narcissus: A Tale of Love and Loss

Why did Echo talk so much when Hera was nearby?

What does Hera's curse tell us about how she felt toward Echo?

Why was Echo heartbroken after receiving Hera's curse?

What does Echo repeating Narcissus's words show about how the curse affected her relationships?

Why do you think Echo still followed Narcissus even though he was unkind and self-centered?

What does Narcissus pushing Echo away tell us about his personality?

Why do you think Narcissus fell in love with his own reflection?

What is the meaning behind both Echo and Narcissus "wasting away" in the story?

How does the story explain the natural world (like echoes or flowers)?

What is the main lesson or message of the story?



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The Story of Daedalus and Icarus: Wings of Wax and the Fall of Pride

- Why did King Minos trust Daedalus to build the Labyrinth?
- Why was King Minos so angry when Daedalus helped Theseus escape?
- What does Daedalus's decision to build wings tell us about how he thinks?
- Why did Daedalus warn Icarus about flying too high or too low?
- Why did Icarus ignore his father's warning?
- What does Icarus's decision to fly too close to the sun show about his personality?
- How do you think Daedalus felt as he watched Icarus fall?
- Why do you think the sea was named the Icarian Sea?
- What is the message or lesson behind Icarus's fall?
- What does this myth say about the balance between courage and caution?

Choose two questions. Answer them below: (highlight the questions that you choose)

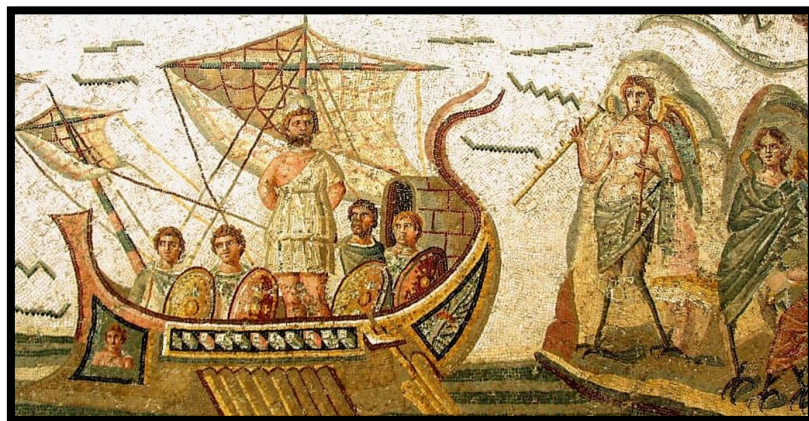
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The Story of the Sirens: Songs from the Sea

- Why did no sailors ever return from the Sirens' island?
- What does the description of the sea around the Sirens' island tell us about how dangerous they were?
- Why did Odysseus want to hear the Sirens' song even though he knew it was dangerous?
- What does Odysseus's plan with the beeswax and ropes show about him?
- Why did Odysseus tell his crew not to untie him no matter what he said?
- What can we infer about the Sirens based on their words to Odysseus?
- Why couldn't the crew be tempted by the Sirens like Odysseus was?
- Why did the sailors continue rowing even though Odysseus begged them to stop?
- What does this myth suggest about giving in to temptation?
- What lesson might the story of the Sirens teach about listening to good advice?



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1)

2)

The Story of Medusa: The Girl with the Snake Hair

Why do you think Athena was so angry about what happened in her temple?

What can we infer about the way Medusa was treated compared to Poseidon?

Why might Medusa have gone to live on a faraway island after being cursed?

How did people's view of Medusa change after her transformation?

Why couldn't Perseus look directly at Medusa during his quest?

What does Perseus's use of the shield as a mirror show about him?

What do Pegasus and Chrysaor being born from Medusa's blood suggest about her?

Why do you think Athena put Medusa's head on her shield?

How might Medusa's story make people question the fairness of the gods?

What lesson or message might this myth be trying to teach about judging others?



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The Story of King Sisyphus: The Endless Task

Why do you think Sisyphus liked to trick people, even the gods?

What do you think happened to the world when Death was tied up?

Why did the gods decide to punish Sisyphus so harshly?

What does Sisyphus's punishment tell us about the gods' view of his actions?

Why is Sisyphus's task described as "endless" and "frustrating"?

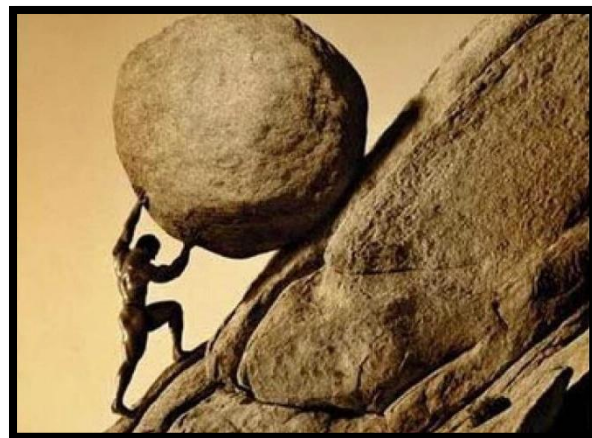
What might Sisyphus's story warn people about trying to avoid consequences?

Why do you think Sisyphus tricked Persephone to return to the living world?

How does Sisyphus's cleverness both help and hurt him in the story?

Why might people today use the phrase "like Sisyphus" to describe a task?

What lesson can we learn from Sisyphus's story about respecting rules and consequences?



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