

GREEK

MYTHOLOGY

Close Reading Passages

10 total  
passages



My

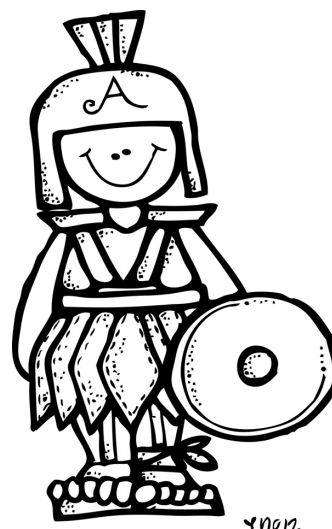
GREEK

MYTHOLOGY



Reading Passages

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# All About ZΕVS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Close Reading Passage

Zeus was the ruler of the gods in Greek mythology. The Greeks considered Zeus as a father figure and a protector, especially of guests and strangers. Zeus was a sky and weather god, especially associated with rain, thunder and lightning. People thought of Zeus living on top of a mountain, and when he got mad he threw lightning bolts out of the sky at people.

The Greek gods Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades were the three sons of the Titans Cronus and his wife Rhea. The three brothers rebelled against Cronus in the War with the Titans and divided up the dominions of the Titans. After the war, Zeus became the ruler of the sky and heavens, Hades became the ruler of the underworld, and Poseidon was given all of the fresh and salt water. It was agreed that the Earth would be ruled by all three gods, with Zeus as the king of the Olympians.

In Greek Mythology the principle Greek gods were referred to as the Twelve Olympians and lived on the summit of Mount Olympus. Mount Olympus was protected by a special layer of clouds. Zeus sat on his great throne in the clouds and ruled over the Olympians with his wife, Hera, who was Queen of the gods.

Zeus' primary role was to watch over the activities of the other gods to ensure they did not exceed their powers. When Zeus got angry he hurled his thunderbolt at people who deserved it. He was incredibly powerful and was exceedingly terrifying when he was angry. Zeus was also wise, fair, and generous with his praise.

Although Zeus was married to Hera, he had several relationships with mortal woman, goddesses, and nymphs. Because of his many relationships with women, Zeus fathered many children. His children included the goddess Aphrodite; and the gods Apollo, Dionysus, and Hermes

As the king of all the gods, there are many myths about the mighty Zeus.



# All About ZEUS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

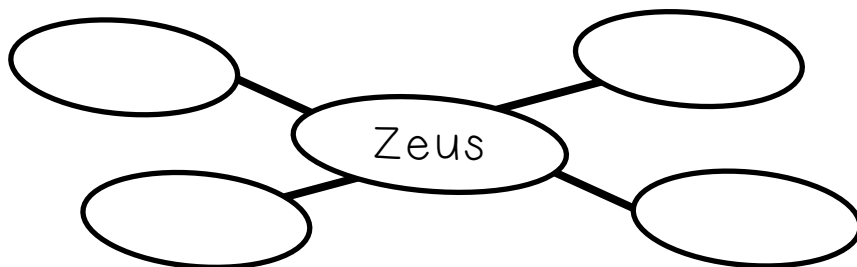


1. Write a question about the text.

2. Make an inference about the passage.

3. What is the main idea of the passage?

4. Find words in the passage that describe Zeus.  
Write the words in the bubbles.



# All About ΖΕΥΣ

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Comprehension Questions

1. Cite evidence from the text to explain Zeus's role in Greek mythology.

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. What happened when the three Greek gods Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades rebelled against their father Cronus in the War with the Titans?

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. According to the text, what were the principle Greek gods referred to and where did they live?

---

---

---

---

---

---

4. Use context clues to define the underlined word dominions. How were you able to figure out what the word means?

---

---

---

---

---

---

# All About ZEUS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



What is the focus of the first paragraph?

What is the focus of the second paragraph?

What is the focus of the third paragraph?

What is the focus of the fourth paragraph?

What is the focus of the fifth paragraph?

# All About HERA

## Close Reading Passage

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Hera was the queen of the gods and goddess of family, marriage, and childbirth. Her parents were Cronus and Rhea and she was the sister of Zeus. She was also married to Zeus. Zeus was able to win over Hera when he turned himself into a cuckoo and flew into her arms. The two fell in love and their wedding was such a happy time that it lasted three hundred years.

Their marriage quickly changed. Zeus had several relationships with mortal women, goddesses, and nymphs. This made Hera very angry and jealous. She schemed against the other women and made them hide in fear.

Zeus and Hera had two children, both boys, Ares and Hephaestus. Zeus also had many children with other women, like Hermes, Apollo, and Hercules. Hera did not like that. Hera was known for her jealous and vengeful nature against Zeus's lovers and his children. Some, like Hercules, she even tried to kill.

In anger, Hera dared to steal Zeus's thunderbolt. This made him very angry and his temper was stronger than hers. Zeus hung Hera from the sky with anvils tied from her feet, and freed her only when she asked for his forgiveness. Zeus's temper was stronger than Heras, but he truly feared his wife.

Although Hera was beautiful, regal, and elegant in appearance, her actions proved that her personality was vain, suspicious, and vengeful. It was hard to ever predict what Hera might do, but quite often, it was something terrible.

# All About HERA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

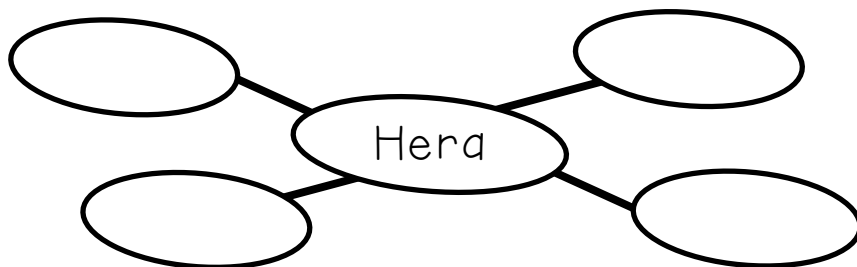


1. Write a question about the text.

2. Make an inference about the passage.

3. What is the main idea of the passage?

4. Find words in the passage that describe Hera.  
Write the words in the bubbles.





# All About HERA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Comprehension Questions

1. Cite evidence from the text to explain Hera's role in Greek mythology.

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. What happened when Hera's husband Zeus fell in love with many other women?

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. According to the text, what happened when Hera dared to steal Zeus's thunderbolt?

---

---

---

---

---

---

4. Use context clues to define the underlined word vengeful. How were you able to figure out what the word means?

---

---

---

---

---

---

# All About HERA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



What is the focus of the first paragraph?

What is the focus of the second paragraph?

What is the focus of the third paragraph?

What is the focus of the fourth paragraph?

What is the focus of the fifth paragraph?

# All About ΗΕΡΗΑΣΤΥΣ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Close Reading Passage



Hephaestus was the son of Zeus and Hera. He was born with bad luck. Hephaestus was so weak and lame, Hera took one look at him and dropped him out of Olympus. He fell for a day and was rescued by the sea goddess Thetis and her sisters. They took him to their underwater home, and there he lived in secret.

Hephaestus's body grew strong, but he never learned how to walk. He became a master craftsman and made beautiful objects out of gold. Many of these gold objects he gave to the goddesses as thanks for their kindness.

Nine years later Hera saw Thetis wearing a beautiful gold piece of jewelry. She demanded to know where Thetis got it. When Thetis told Hera that it was Hephaestus, she regretted her actions. She called him back to Olympus, allowed him to marry Aphrodite, and created an even bigger workshop for him to make his gold.

Hephaestus became the worker of the gods. He made them gold palaces, weapons, chariots, and tools. Since he was unable to walk, he made two golden maidens for himself who helped him move about. His artistry was the pride of Olympus.

All About ΗΕΡΗΑΣΤΥΣ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

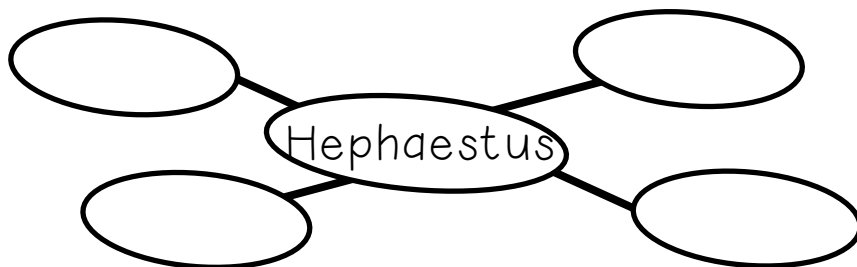
1. Write a question about the text.



2. Make an inference about the passage.

3. What is the main idea of the passage?

4. Find words in the passage that describe Hephaestus.  
Write the words in the bubbles.



All About **HEPHAESTUS** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Comprehension Questions

1. Cite evidence from the text to explain Hephaestus's role in Greek mythology.

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. What happened when Hephaestus was born?

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. According to the text, what happened nine years later when Hera saw Thetis wearing a beautiful piece of gold?

---

---

---

---

---

---

4. Use context clues to define the underlined word lame. How were you able to figure out what the word means?

---

---

---

---

---

---

All About ΗΕΡΗΑΣΤΥΣ Name: \_\_\_\_\_



What is the focus of the first paragraph?

What is the focus of the second paragraph?

What is the focus of the third paragraph?

What is the focus of the fourth paragraph?

# All About ΑΘΗΝΑ

## Close Reading Passage

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Athena had a most unusual birth. She was the daughter of Zeus and one of his many women, Metis. Zeus had been warned that if Metis bore a son, he would overthrow Zeus just as Zeus and Cronus had overthrown their own fathers. Zeus decided not to take any chances so he lured Metis close with his sweet words-- and swallowed her!

Soon after, Zeus had a horrible headache. He yelled for help. Hephaestus fetched his ax and split open Zeus's head. Out of Zeus's head came Athena, armed for action. She had inherited her mother's cunning ways and she immediately became her father's favorite advisor.

Athena held a powerful position in the ancient Greek god world. She was an Olympian, one of the council of 12, who held a seat on Mount Olympus. Athena was a warrior who hated war. She preferred a more peaceful and logical approach to settling fights. Athena became the goddess of wisdom, strategy, and war which is why she is usually shown fully armed, with her shield and sword.

Nearly every town in ancient Greece had a god that looked after the townspeople. Athena became the patron goddess of Athens. She was awarded Athens during the reign of Cecrops, the first king of Athens, as the prize of a contest with Poseidon, who also aspired to have it.

The city of Athens was named after Athena. The people of Athens built the Parthenon to house a huge statue of her for them to worship. The Parthenon is located on the hill of the Acropolis at Athens. It was built in the 5th century BC. Over the centuries, the Parthenon has been greatly damaged, and its sculpture of Athena has been removed.

# All About ΑΘΗΝΑ

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

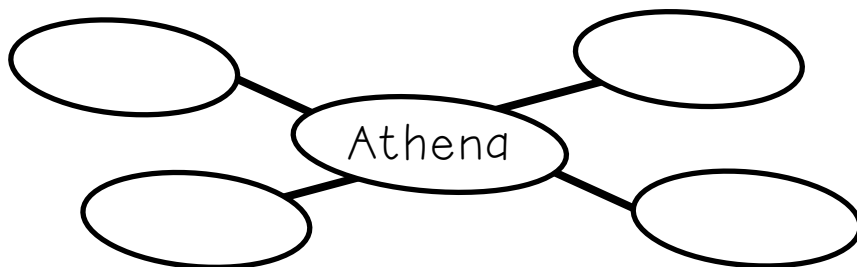


1. Write a question about the text.

2. Make an inference about the passage.

3. What is the main idea of the passage?

4. Find words in the passage that describe Athena.  
Write the words in the bubbles.





# All About ΑΘΗΞΝΑ

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Comprehension Questions

1. Cite evidence from the text to explain Athena's role in Greek mythology.

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. How was Athena born?

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. According to the text, how did Athena become the patron goddess of Athens?

---

---

---

---

---

---

4. Use context clues to define the underlined word logical. How were you able to figure out what the word means?

---

---

---

---

---

---

# All About ΑΘΗΝΑ

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



What is the focus of the first paragraph?

What is the focus of the second paragraph?

What is the focus of the third paragraph?

What is the focus of the fourth paragraph?

What is the focus of the fifth paragraph?

# All About APHRODITE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Close Reading Passage



Aphrodite was the goddess of love and beauty. Some people believed she was the daughter of Zeus, king of all the gods. Others insist she simply appeared one day, riding to shore on a wave of sea foam.

Aphrodite was one of the most beautiful and powerful of the Greek gods. Her skin was said to be 'whiter than ivory', her hair as golden as the yellow rays of the setting sun, and her eyes were as blue as the summer sky. Her beauty struck all who saw her and she made an impact on the world of mortals just as much as she did with the other Gods around her.

Zeus was worried that Aphrodite's beauty would cause trouble amongst the Greek gods and lead to war, so Zeus married her to Hephaestus. Because of his ugliness and deformity, he was not seen as a threat. Aphrodite also had a son, Eros, the god of love.

Aphrodite spent very little time with her family, because she was mostly running around and causing trouble. She had a horrible temper. She knew she was beautiful and powerful, making her very vain. But if you asked Aphrodite, she would tell you the things that went wrong were not really her fault.

One myth says that it was Aphrodite's temper and vanity that caused the Trojan War, but if you ask her she would tell you it was her half-sister, Helen's, fault. In the legend of the Golden Apple of Discord Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite all claimed to be the fairest goddess. Paris, the Prince of Troy, awarded it to Aphrodite beginning a chain of events that led to the Trojan War.

All About APHRODITE Name: \_\_\_\_\_

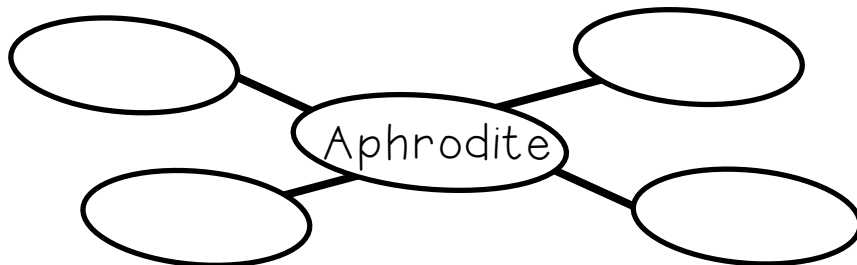


1. Write a question about the text.

2. Make an inference about the passage.

3. What is the main idea of the passage?

4. Find words in the passage that describe Aphrodite.  
Write the words in the bubbles.



All About **APHRODITE** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Comprehension Questions

1. Cite evidence from the text to explain Aphrodite's role in Greek mythology.

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. Why was Aphrodite married to Hephaestus?

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. According to the text, how did Aphrodite cause the Trojan War?

---

---

---

---

---

---

4. Use context clues to define the underlined word vain. How were you able to figure out what the word means?

---

---

---

---

---

---

All About **APHRODITE** Name: \_\_\_\_\_



What is the focus of the first paragraph?

What is the focus of the second paragraph?

What is the focus of the third paragraph?

What is the focus of the fourth paragraph?

What is the focus of the fifth paragraph?

# All About POSEIDON

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Close Reading Passage

Poseidon was the Greek god of sea, earthquakes, and horses. He was a moody god. His temper could be as violent as the sea he ruled. When he shook his trident, leaping waves would flood the land. If he struck the Earth, mountains erupted. But when he was calm, rivers dried and islands formed.

Poseidon's brothers were Zeus and Hades. When the three brothers split up the universe, Poseidon received the sea as his domain. Poseidon and Hades helped rule the earth, but Zeus was in charge.

Poseidon created the first horse, from a rock, with one blow. Soon after creating the horse, he traveled to Olympus in his golden horse-drawn chariot. He is often depicted as riding his horse-drawn chariot and carrying a three-pronged spear called a trident.

Most of the time Poseidon lived in a golden underwater palace with his queen, Amphitrite, a lovely sea goddess. Together they had three children, though Poseidon had many more. Like his brother Zeus, he could not resist goddesses, nymphs, or mortals. One of his offspring included the magical horse Pegasus.

Ancient Greeks who lived near the sea were terrified of Poseidon. They tried very hard to keep him happy. They built him temples to honor him and brought him gifts everyday. Sometimes the gifts made him happy, and the water was calm and sparkling. Sometimes the gifts did not make him happy, and a terrible storm would break over the land. As moody and wild as Poseidon was, he always calmed when he came home to his beautiful palace under the sea.



# All About POSEIDON

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

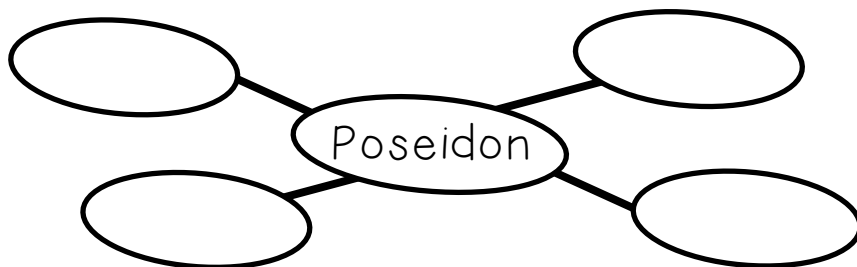
1. Write a question about the text.



2. Make an inference about the passage.

3. What is the main idea of the passage?

4. Find words in the passage that describe Poseidon.  
Write the words in the bubbles.





All About POSEIDON Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Comprehension Questions

1. Cite evidence from the text to explain Poseidon's role in Greek mythology.

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. Why were Ancient Greeks who lived by the sea terrified of Poseidon?

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. According to the text, how did Ancient Greeks try to please Poseidon?

---

---

---

---

---

---

4. Use context clues to define the underlined word offspring. How were you able to figure out what the word means?

---

---

---

---

---

---

All About POSEIDON Name: \_\_\_\_\_



What is the focus of the first paragraph?

Empty rounded rectangular box for the answer to the first question.

What is the focus of the second paragraph?

Empty rounded rectangular box for the answer to the second question.

What is the focus of the third paragraph?

Empty rounded rectangular box for the answer to the third question.

What is the focus of the fourth paragraph?

Empty rounded rectangular box for the answer to the fourth question.

What is the focus of the fifth paragraph?

Empty rounded rectangular box for the answer to the fifth question.

# All About HERMES

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Close Reading Passage



Hermes is a god of boundaries, borders and edges. Because of this, he is also in charge of things that cross borders, like messages or travelers. He is the messenger of the Greek gods. His father, Zeus, often sends Hermes to Earth when he has something to say to a person.

Hermes was Zeus's youngest son. Zeus enjoyed having Hermes around, because he was always fun and a bit mischievous. Hermes seemed to be able to talk to just about anyone. This is why Zeus made him his messenger. Both gods and humans liked and trusted Hermes.

Hermes loved to play tricks on people. It is said that he invented the lyre, a harp, on the first day after he was born. Later that day, he stole his brother Apollo's sacred cattle. These cattle were very, very important to Apollo. He made the cattle walk backwards so their tracks wouldn't point to his house. When Apollo accused Hermes of stealing his cattle, their mother Maia insisted that he couldn't have. Zeus, who knew all about it, told Apollo the truth. At this point, Hermes began to play his Lyre, and Apollo loved the music so much he agreed to let Hermes keep the cattle in exchange for the lyre.

Hermes always found himself in the middle of fixing problems and carrying messages. Because of this, he was very important. He knew just about everything that was going on in the mythical world, but he kept the secrets very well. Hermes always solved problems in a way that worked out best for everyone.

As Hermes grew older, he became better and better at what he did, until he was the best deal maker in the world.

# All About HERMES

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

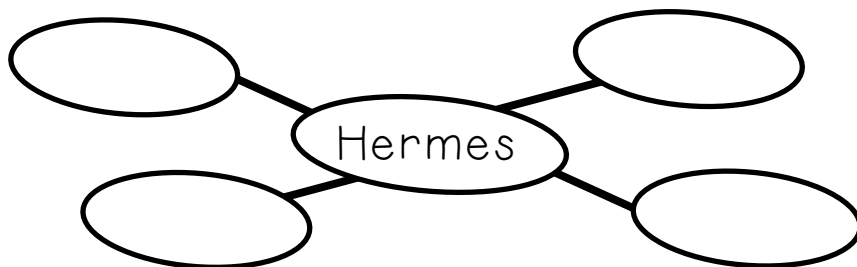
1. Write a question about the text.



2. Make an inference about the passage.

3. What is the main idea of the passage?

4. Find words in the passage that describe Hermes.  
Write the words in the bubbles.



# All About HERMES

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Comprehension Questions

1. Cite evidence from the text to explain Hermes's role in Greek mythology.

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. Why did Zeus enjoy having Hermes around?

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. According to the text, how did Hermes know just about everything that was going on in the mythical world?

---

---

---

---

---

---

4. Use context clues to define the underlined word sacred. How were you able to figure out what the word means?

---

---

---

---

---

---

# All About HERMES

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the focus of the first paragraph?



What is the focus of the second paragraph?

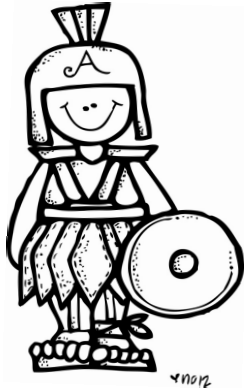
What is the focus of the third paragraph?

What is the focus of the fourth paragraph?

# All About **ACHILLES**

Close Reading Passage

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



The events in Achilles's life are legends but may have some historical basis. Achilles was the son of Pelus, the king of Phthia in Thessaly, and Thetis, an immortal sea nymph. Soon after Achilles was born, Thetis dipped him in the River Styx, whose magical water would make him invulnerable, like a god. The water did not touch the heel by which Thetis held him. Achilles could not be harmed, except for the one heel.

When the Trojan War began, Agamemnon, the commander of the Greek forces, sent soldiers to recruit Achilles into the Greek army. Achilles accepted and became the best Greek warrior in the Trojan War. In the 10th year of that war, the Greeks defeated the city of Troy.

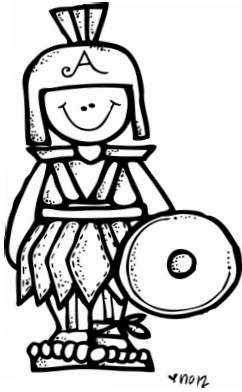
During the last year of the war, Achilles quarreled with Agamemnon, who took away Briseis, a young woman Achilles had captured as a prize of war. In anger, Achilles refused to fight any longer and, without him, the Greek forces began to lose. Achilles allowed Patroclus, his best friend, to join the battle wearing his armor. Patroclus was slain by Hector, the greatest Trojan warrior. Enraged, Achilles returned to the battlefield, slaughtering everyone in his path. He eventually killed Hector, aided by the goddess Athena. According to some stories, Hector's brother Paris shot an arrow into Achilles's heel, and Achilles died from the wound.

Achilles heard a prophecy. It was this: he could make a choice to live a long life, quietly and without fame or honor, or he could choose to be famous and remembered always, but to die young. He chose to be famous and die young,

later, Achilles met Odysseus in the underworld. Maybe he had made the wrong decision to die young and famous.

# All About **ACHILLES**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

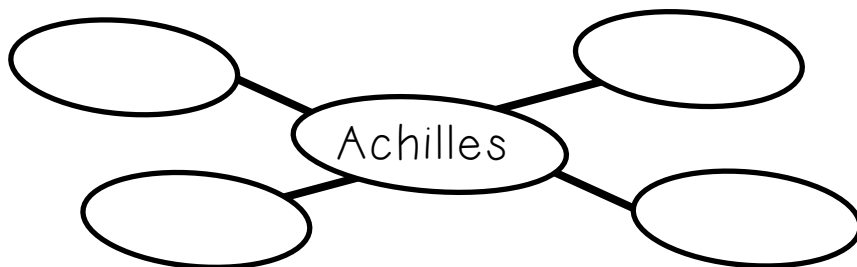


1. Write a question about the text.

2. Make an inference about the passage.

3. What is the main idea of the passage?

4. Find words in the passage that describe Achilles.  
Write the words in the bubbles.





# All About **ACHILLES**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Comprehension Questions

1. Cite evidence from the text to explain Achilles's role in Greek mythology.

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. Explain why Achilles could not be harmed except for on one heel?

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. According to the text, how did Achilles die?

---

---

---

---

---

---

4. Use context clues to define the underlined word prophecy. How were you able to figure out what the word means?

---

---

---

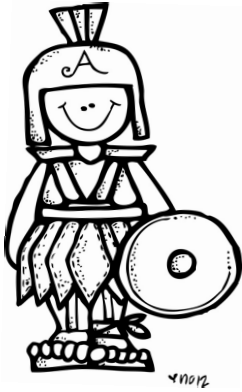
---

---

---

# All About **ACHILLES**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



What is the focus of the first paragraph?

What is the focus of the second paragraph?

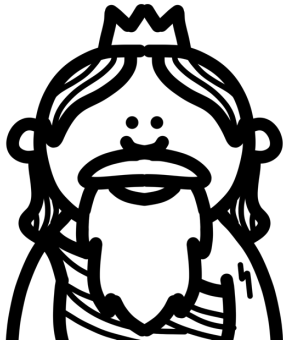
What is the focus of the third paragraph?

What is the focus of the fourth paragraph?

# All About KING MIDAS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Close Reading Passage



Midas was king of Phrygia, an ancient country in central Asia Minor. Midas had a daughter named Zoe, and he was a wealthy king who had everything you could possibly want, but he still was not happy. Midas thought a huge pile of gold would make him happiest of all.

The god Dionysus gave Midas the power to turn everything he touched into gold, because he had helped Dionysus's teacher Silenus. Midas was very eager to try out his new golden touch!

At first, Midas's miraculous power pleased him. But soon it became a curse, because even his food turned to gold the moment he touched it. He prayed to Dionysus to help him, and the god told him to bathe in the river Pactolus. Midas washed himself, and the magic touch left him. But the sands of the river turned to gold.

Midas learned a very valuable lesson. He now loved the brightness of life instead of the luster of gold. To celebrate, he gave away the rest of his money and possessions and moved to a cabin on the edge of the forest. There, having learned life's most valuable lesson, he and his daughter enjoyed the wonders of the fields and forest, and never forgot where true happiness is found.

# All About MIDAS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

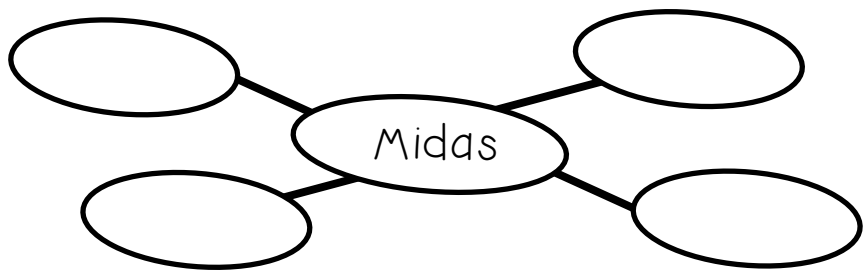
1. Write a question about the text.



2. Make an inference about the passage.

3. What is the main idea of the passage?

4. Find words in the passage that describe Midas.  
Write the words in the bubbles.



All About **KING MIDAS** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Comprehension Questions

1. Cite evidence from the text to explain King Midas's role in Greek mythology.

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. What power did the god Dionysus give to King Midas?

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. Explain the valuable life lesson that King Midas learned.

---

---

---

---

---

---

4. Use context clues to define the underlined word miraculous. How were you able to figure out what the word means?

---

---

---

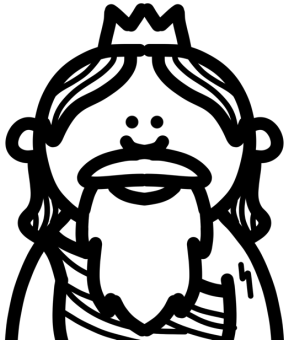
---

---

---

# All About KING MIDAS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



What is the focus of the first paragraph?

What is the focus of the second paragraph?

What is the focus of the third paragraph?

What is the focus of the fourth paragraph?

# All About HERCULES

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Close Reading Passage

Hercules was the greatest of the mythological Greek heroes. He was famous for his incredible strength, courage, and intelligence. Hercules is actually his Roman name. The Greeks called him Heracles. He was a demigod. This means that he was half god, half human. His father was Zeus, king of the gods, and his mother was Alcmene, a beautiful human princess. Even as a baby Hercules was very strong. When the goddess Hera, Zeus' wife, found out about Hercules, she wanted to kill him. She snuck two large snakes into his crib. However, baby Hercules grabbed the snakes by the neck and strangled them with his bare hands!

Hercules married a princess named Megara. They had a family and were living a happy life. This made the goddess Hera angry. She tricked Hercules into thinking his family were snakes. Hercules killed the snakes only to realize they were his wife and kids. He was very sad and filled with guilt.

Hercules wanted to get rid of his guilt. He went to get advice from the Oracle of Delphi. The Oracle told Hercules that he must serve King Eurystheus for 10 years and do any task the king asked of him. If he did this, he would be forgiven and wouldn't feel guilty any more. The tasks the king gave him are called the Twelve Labors of Hercules. The king did not like Hercules and wanted him to fail. Each time he made the tasks more and more difficult. The final task even involved traveling to the Underworld and bringing back the fierce three-headed guardian Cerberus

Some time after completing the 12 labors, Hercules married the princess Deianira. The centaur Nessus tried to hurt Deianira, and Hercules shot him with a poisoned arrow. The dying centaur told Deianira to smear some of his blood on Hercules' robe if she ever needed to win back his love.

After Hercules fell in love with another princess, Iole, Deianira followed Nessus' advice. The centaur's blood had been poisoned by Hercules' arrow. When Hercules put on the robe, it burned him terribly. His body was consumed by flames, and he was taken to Mount Olympus, home of the gods. There, he became a god.



# All About HERCULES

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

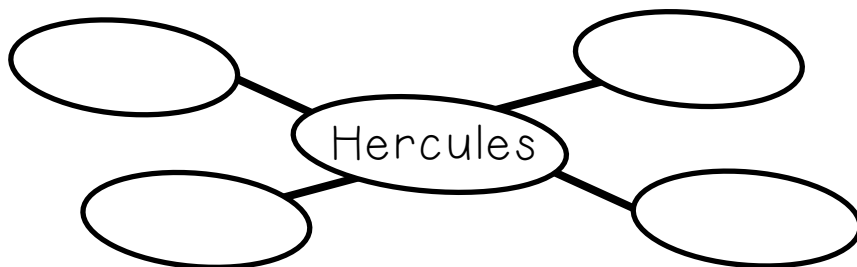


1. Write a question about the text.

2. Make an inference about the passage.

3. What is the main idea of the passage?

4. Find words in the passage that describe Hercules.  
Write the words in the bubbles.





# All About HERCULES

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Comprehension Questions

1. Cite evidence from the text to explain Hercules's role in Greek mythology.

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. According to the text, how did Hera trick Hercules?

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. Explain how Hercules got rid of his terrible guilt.

---

---

---

---

---

---

4. Use context clues to define the underlined word bare. How were you able to figure out what the word means?

---

---

---

---

---

---

# All About HERCULES

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



What is the focus of the first paragraph?

What is the focus of the second paragraph?

What is the focus of the third paragraph?

What is the focus of the fourth paragraph?

What is the focus of the fifth paragraph?

Thank You for purchasing  
this product!



Terms of Use:

Each page of this document is copyrighted. You may not claim any part of this document as your own.

This document is designed for personal use in one classroom only. Please purchase additional licenses for use in multiple classrooms.

Thank you to these artists for providing the fonts and clip art used to make this product.



[www.melonheadzillustrating.blogspot.com](http://www.melonheadzillustrating.blogspot.com)



Erin Cobb - Lovin Lit - <http://inlovinlit.blogspot.com>

