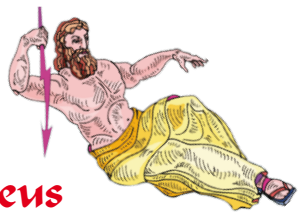


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Greek Myths

Greek myths tell tales of gods, goddesses, heroes and monsters. Here are just a few characters from these ancient stories.



Zeus

Zeus's father Cronos ate all his children. Zeus's mother, Rhea hid Zeus so he would survive. When he grew up Zeus defeated his father, rescued all his brothers and sisters who had been swallowed and became king of the gods. Zeus ruled from Mt Olympus. His weapon was the thunderbolt, which he threw down from the sky.

Heracles or Hercules



Heracles was a son of Zeus but he was not a god because his mother, Alcmene, was human. As a demigod he had superhuman strength and great courage. He had to perform 12 almost impossible tasks known as the Labours of Hercules.

Medusa

Medusa was one of three sisters called the Gorgons. Anyone who looked at them turned to stone. They were covered in golden scales and their hair was made of slithering snakes. The hero Perseus was able to chop off Medusa's head by looking at her reflection. He then used her snake-covered head to fight his enemies.



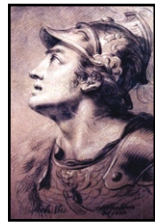
Helen of Troy



Helen was the daughter of Zeus and was the most beautiful woman in the world. She became known as the Face that Launched a Thousand Ships because, after she was abducted by Paris and carried off to Troy, the entire Greek fleet sailed off to rescue her. So began the Trojan War.

Achilles

Achilles was a fierce warrior who fought on the Greek side in the Trojan War. When he was a child his mother dipped him into the magical river Styx to make



him immortal but as she held him by the heel this part of him remained unprotected. During a battle he was struck in the heel by an arrow and he died.

The Sphinx



The Sphinx was half lion half woman. To get past the gates where she stood guard you had to answer her riddles. If you couldn't answer a riddle she killed you.

Pandora

Pandora was the first woman on earth and was given a box to look after with the instructions that she must not open it. She couldn't take her eyes of the box and her curiosity was so great that she opened it. Inside were all the evils and diseases and these were released into the world.



Poseidon

Poseidon was the brother of Zeus and ruled over the oceans. He was very powerful and had quite a temper which meant that if he was angry he would cause earthquakes and tidal waves. Poseidon carried a trident, which is a large three-pronged fork used as a weapon.



Minotaur

The Minotaur was a monster with the head of a bull and the body of a man. It was hidden in a maze or labyrinth by King Minos. Fourteen young Greeks were to be locked into the maze for the Minotaur to eat but the hero Theseus managed to kill the monster.

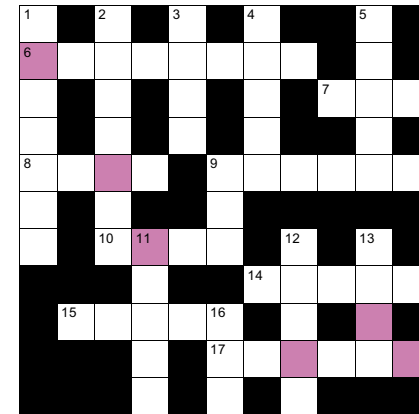


Crossword

You'll find the answers to the crossword underlined in the text

Across

- This great hero was also known as Heracles (8)
- Pandora was given this to look after and not open (3)
- You see with these (4)
- The Gorgons' heads were covered in these slithering creatures (6)
- City where Helen was taken to (4)
- The name of the person who abducted Helen. It is also the name of the capital city of France (5)
- Poseidon had the power to create tidal ... (5)



- Poseidon ruled over this part of Earth (6)

Down

- This hero killed the Minotaur (7)
- Poseidon's three-pronged fork (7)

- The Minotaur had the head of this beast (4)
- The most beautiful woman, ... of Troy (5)
- If you looked at a Gorgon you would turn to this (5)
- Zeus threw thunderbolts down from the ... (3)
- Achilles was dipped in a magic ... to protect him (5)

- The Sphinx guarded these (5)

- The Sphinx was half woman and half this fierce big cat (4)

- Hercules was the ... of Zeus (3)

Solution

Write the letters from the shaded squares into the spaces above.