

# HEROES, GODS & MONSTERS TEACHER'S GUIDE

The following Teacher's Guide is designed to help you prepare your class for their upcoming presentation of *Heroes, Gods & Monsters* when the Northern Stars Planetarium visits your school. Much of the enclosed material is for you, the teacher, to help you prepare your students. Puzzles and worksheets are designed to be copied and distributed directly to your students. PLEASE NOTE: Not all of the material in this guide may be appropriate for your particular class. Some of the material may be too old or too young because this program is adaptable for several age levels. Please use only what is appropriate.

## PROGRAM OUTLINE

Winter and Spring Version:

- I. Orion Stories
  - A. Orion and the Scorpion
  - B. Orion, Artemis and Apollo
- II. Hercules Stories
  - A. Nemean Lion (Leo)
  - B. Slaying the ten headed Hydra
  - C. Draco and the Golden Apples

Summer & Autumn Version:

- I. The kidnapping of Persephone (Virgo the Maiden)
- II. Andromeda, Perseus, & Pegasus the Flying Horse
- III. Helios and Phaethon: Driving the Sun Chariot



## STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Which mythical gods correspond to the names of the planets? (i.e. Venus is named after the goddess of love and beauty.)
2. Are the planets named after Greek or Roman gods? (Roman)
3. How do you think they decided which planets should be named after which gods? (example: The planet Mercury might have been named after the god Mercury, the messenger and god of travel, because of the planet's swift motion through the skies.)
4. Why do you think so many constellations are named after so many Greek Heroes and Monsters?
5. Why do you think the Romans changed almost all the names of the Greek gods and goddesses?
6. Who were the Titans? Who were the Olympian Gods? What was the difference? (The Titans were the first generation gods and were not very powerful. The Olympic Gods were the second generation gods and were quite powerful.)



<u>Hermes</u>	Mercury	Messenger of the gods, God of Travel
Dionysus	Bacchus	God of Wine and Grapes

## **HEROES & MORTALS**

<u>Hercules</u>	The strongest man in the world. A great hero.
<u>Orion</u>	A young man of great size. He was a great hunter.
<u>Phaethon</u>	The son of the Sun god, Helios.
Pleiades	The seven sisters, daughters of Atlas, chased by Orion.
<u>Perseus</u>	The first of the great Greek heroes.
<u>Cassiopeia</u>	Queen of Ethiopia, mother of Andromeda.
<u>Cepheus</u>	King of Ethiopia, father of Andromeda.
<u>Andromeda</u>	The princess, daughter of Cassiopeia and Cepheus.
Daedlus & Icarus	The greatest inventor of ancient times, and his son.

## **MONSTERS & STRANGE CREATURES**

<u>Medusa</u>	She had a scaly body, bulging red eyes, wings, and snakes for hair. Simply seeing her turned the viewer to stone.
<u>Cetus</u>	The sea monster. Also the whale.
<u>Pegasus</u>	The winged horse.
Sphinx	A monster with a maiden's face, a lion's body and a serpent's tale.
Sirens	Three sisters: half women – half birds. They sang songs from cliffs that enticed sailors to crash on the rocks.
Cerberus	The three headed dog of Hades that guards the underworld.
Centaur	Half man—half horse, Chiron was a wise Centaur who trained many heroes, such as Hercules.
Fates	Three dreaded sisters who controlled fate. Even the gods must obey them.
<u>Nerieds</u>	Beautiful sea-nymphs or mermaids.
Cyclops	Giants with only one eye in the center of their forehead.

## PLACES

<u>Mt. Olympus</u>	The place where the gods lived.
<u>Hades</u>	The underworld or Tartarus. The place of the dead.
The River Styx	The river that borders Hades. The dead were ferried across it by Charon, the boatman. They had to pay a coin to cross.
Elysian Fields	The special part of Hades for heroes and the virtuous.

## Map of Actual Places in Greece



## THE STORY OF BERENICE'S HAIR

It happened that one there was a king named Ptolemy Soter (pronounced 'Tolemy') who had a beautiful queen named Berenice. Ptolemy went away to war to fight against the nearby kingdom of Assyria. The war lasted many years and Berenice became frightened that her husband might never return. Fearing for his life, she went to the temple to pray that her husband would return victorious. In her anxiety, she promised that if the gods would assure Ptolemy's safe and victorious return, she would sacrifice her beautiful long hair to Aphrodite (Venus), the goddess of love and beauty.

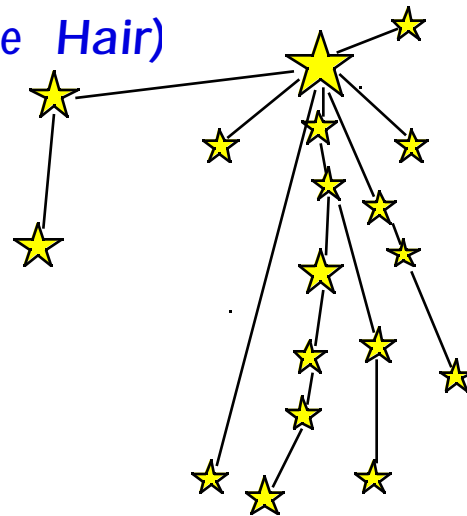
After weeks of waiting anxiously, Berenice was relieved when Ptolemy returned home in victory, safe and sound. The kingdom rejoiced at the king's return, but when Berenice told Ptolemy about her promise to sacrifice her beautiful long hair to Aphrodite, Ptolemy became very angry. Berenice's hair was the crowning glory of his queen; it was looked after with loving care by Berenice's many ladies-in-waiting. It was the admiration of the entire kingdom. It inspired poets and artists. Nothing, however, could be done; a promise before the gods could not be broken. Berenice went to the temple where her beautiful locks of hair were cut off and laid on the altar by the priests.

The next day when the king went to the temple to see his wife's hair, he was furious to find that it had been stolen. He summoned the guards to kill the priests for allowing this to happen. Just at the moment the guards were about to behead the priests, the court astronomer arrived and yelled, "Stop! Please, your majesty. 'Tis not the fault of thy priests. Just wait until dark and thou shall understand."

So when the day turned into night, the astronomer took the king outside and pointed into the heavens. "Look! Dost thou not see the clustered curls of thy queen, too beautiful for a single temple to possess?" And there in the sky between the Great Bear (The Big Dipper), Leo the Lion and Virgo the Maiden was a faint mass of twinkling stars. The astronomer declared, "Zeus, himself, came to the temple last night and gathered the locks of hair. He carried them high into the heavens where he and Aphrodite placed them for the whole world to marvel at." The king was satisfied with this great wonder and Berenice was delighted to be so honored by the gods themselves.

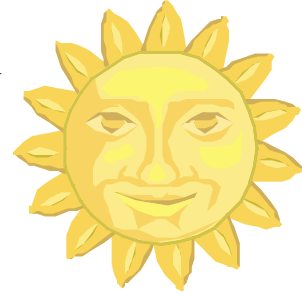
-Paraphased from: Julius Staal's  
New Patterns in the Sky, pp 149-150.

### Coma Berenices (Berenice Hair)



## THE STORY OF DAEDALUS AND ICARUS

Daedalus was known throughout Greece as the greatest craftsman and inventor in all the world. His name spread even to King Minos on the island of Crete. King Minos pleaded with Daedalus to build him a cage to hold a terrible monster called the Minotaur. The Minotaur was half man-half bull. This hideous beast ravaged the island of Crete, devouring men, women, and children at his will. No one in all the land could destroy or even control this horrible creature.



Daedalus accepted King Minos' challenge and built the king a large and elaborate maze he called the Labyrinth. The passageways were so complicated that anyone who entered the Labyrinth could never find their way out again. And so, the Minotaur was trapped within the maze.

The people of Crete were so happy that they praised Daedalus unendingly. But King Minos became very jealous and he imprisoned Daedalus, along with his son Icarus, inside the Labyrinth. Daedalus and Icarus could not find their way out of the maze and were in constant fear of the Minotaur. It seemed there was no escape and only a matter of time before their doom would be sealed by meeting the hungry, hideous creature.

Daedalus, however, had not given up hope. While no man nor beast once inside the Labyrinth could ever find their way out, he noticed that one small creature came and went as quickly and easily as the wind – the birds. For the Labyrinth had no roof and the birds could fly in and out. But men could not fly. Could they? Daedalus instructed his son Icarus to collect as many feathers as possible. Icarus didn't understand why, but he did as his father asked. When enough feathers were gathered, Daedalus, the master inventor, fashioned wings from the feathers, holding them together with thread and wax. He made a large pair of wings for himself and a smaller pair for Icarus.

When they were ready make their flying escape, Daedalus told his son, "Icarus, remember to always maintain a moderate height. If you fly too low, the fogs and vapors will weigh down your feathers and you will not be able to fly. If you fly too high, the heat of the Sun will melt the wax and your wings will fall apart." But Icarus, excited about escaping and flying, did not listen. With a few sweeps of his wings, Icarus was flying above the Labyrinth. The Minotaur and the king's guards looked up in disbelief at the father and son flying overhead.

At first they were very nervous being so high, but gradually they became accustomed to the sensation of flight. Icarus slowly grew bold and did more and more daring stunts in the air. Daedalus tried to tell him to stay in the middle levels of the sky, but the sound of the wind kept Icarus from hearing. Soon, all Icarus could think of was touching the stars themselves. He flew higher and higher. Slowly, the Sun warmed and melted the wax. One by one, the feathers began to drop out of the wings. Icarus struggled but could no longer maintain his flight and he fell to a watery grave in the sea below. Daedalus flew on



alone. His eyes were full of tears and he cursed the skill that allowed him to make the wings. When he arrived safely on land, he built a temple to Apollo and hung up his wings as an offering to the god. Never again did he attempt to fly.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Allen, Richard H., *Star Names, Their Lore and Meaning*, New York: Dover Publications, 1963, originally 1899. (Technical reference)

Graves, Robert, *The Greek Myths*, Penguin Books.

Hamilton, Edith, *Mythology, Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*, New York: The New American Library, 1942. (Good general book)

Evslin, Bernard, *Gods, Demigods, & Demons*, New York: Scholastic Books, 1975. (A Dictionary of Greek gods, heroes, etc.)

Lurie & Belsner, *The Heavenly Zoo*, New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 1979. (Recommended for reading, but not all stories are Greek.)

Proctor, Percy M., *Star Myths and Stories*, New York: Exposition Press, 1972.

Raymo, Chet, *365 Starry Nights*, New York: Prentice Hall Press, 1986. (A good book to learn some fun facts and stories about the sky.)

Rey, H.A., *The Stars, A New Way to See Them*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1976, original 1952. (A good book to learn the constellations by)

Ridpath, Ian, *Star Tales*, New York: Universe Books, 1988.

Russell, William F., *Classic Myths to Read Aloud*, New York: Crown Publishers, 1989. (Highly recommended for reading to children)

Staal, Julius D., *The New Patterns in the Sky*, Blacksburg, VA: The McDonald and Woodward Publishing Co., 1988.

Stapleton, Michael, *A Dictionary of Greek and Roman Mythology*, New York: Bell Publishing Co., 1978.

(NOTE: All classical myths should be read by the teacher prior to student reading or reading aloud in class as the content may not be appropriate for certain age levels [myths tend to be racy at times].)

### **CLASSICS FOR THE OLDER READER:**

*Bulfinch's Mythology*

Homer, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*

(There are many various printings of these books)



## MATCH GAME

Match the Greek god to its Roman counterpart.

**GREEK:**

Athena

Ares

Eros

Dionysus

Zeus

Poseidon

Apollo

Hermes

Hephaestus

Hades

Cronus

Demeter

Hera

Artemis

Aphrodite

**ROMAN:**

Jupiter

Cupid

Minerva

Apollo

Diana

Saturn

Vulcan

Mercury

Venus

Pluto

Juno

Bacchus

Ceres

Mars

Neptune



(Answers are available on the chart of Principle Green and Roman gods)

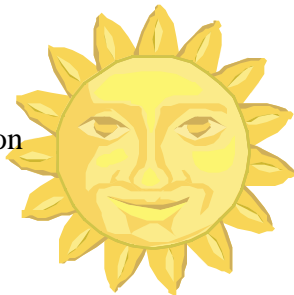


## WORD SEARCH

S V E T I T A N S N R D S A T U R N C  
C M E R C U R Y T D A P L U T O J F O  
O O J P U V D T Y H O M E R F L V I N  
R E L A J E R T X E Q D Z A N O A J S  
P N D V U K A P O L L O V Q D E G S T  
I X H U P M C K Y I M L B D R H R X E  
U A J T I F O A S O H Y D R A E E H L  
S Y N S T O R I E S Q M T Z L R E R L  
B H A D E S A M S N P P J H T C K J A  
K I H E R L D G A Z E U S E O U L Q T  
N V N P R O M A N R R S N R K L E P I  
D A P Z P I M D M O S Z L O Y E O E O  
C A S S I O P E I A E V J E N S J G N  
E H T P R N O X D T U G N S E N G A Y  
T P H A E T S R I A S P A H P S N S H  
U M O N S T E R A Q B T N L T A A U J  
S E K Y O R I O N R E X A P U V R S L  
P H A E T H O N A I N O I R N S H E V  
P O S E I D O N J L C E P H E U S N S  
R F J K H R B P L E I A D E S N H G B

Find the following words horizontally, vertically and diagonally:

Andromeda  
Apollo  
Ares  
Atlas  
Cassiopeia  
Cepheus  
Cetus  
Constellation  
Diana  
Draco  
Greek  
Hades  
Helios  
Hera



Hercules  
Heroes  
Homer  
Hydra  
Jupiter  
Leo  
Mars  
Mercury  
Monster  
Mythology  
Neptune  
Olympus  
Orion  
Pegasus

Perseus  
Phaethon  
Pleiades  
Pluto  
Poseidon  
Roman  
Saturn  
Scorpius  
Star  
Stories  
Styx  
Sun  
Titans  
Zeus

