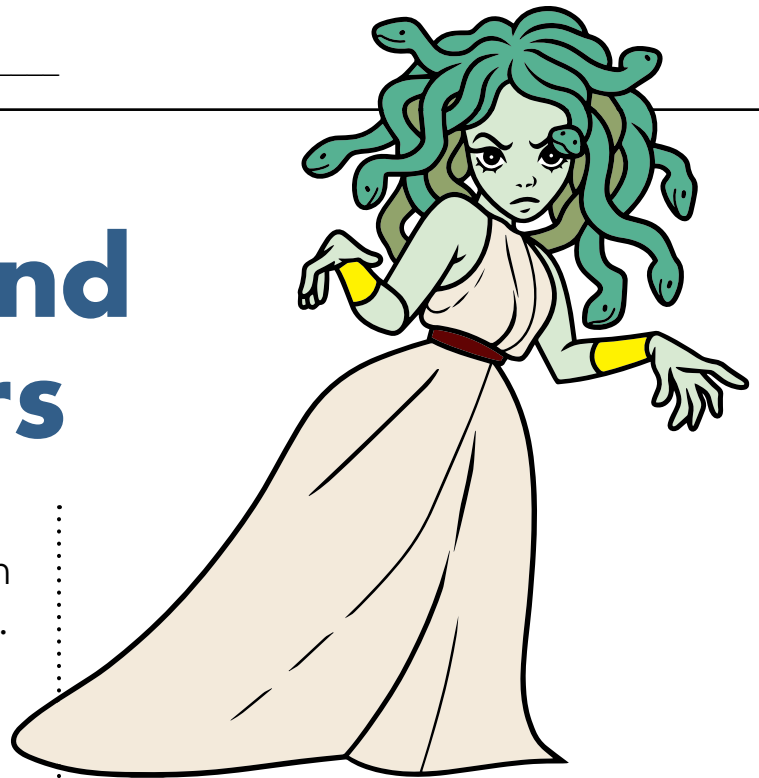


Name: _____

Heroes and Monsters

Greek mythology is full of monsters. It's also full of men fighting them, often to the death. You wouldn't want to be a monster when a Greek hero came around! Here are just a few famous stories.



head's power in battle and later



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says she was born that way, like her sisters. In both myths, unlike her sisters Medusa could be killed.

Most myths say Perseus was sent to kill Medusa as a trap. People thought he would die trying. However, the gods helped him. Athena even gave him a mirror. He used it to keep from looking right at Medusa while he cut off her head. He used the

known for attacking people and breathing fire.

The hero Bellerophon rode the winged horse Pegasus into battle. At first, he couldn't hurt the Chimera. Its fire kept him away. Then he used a long spear to stuff lead in its mouth. When it tried to breathe fire, the lead melted. It couldn't breathe. That's when Bellerophon struck it down.

Name: _____

Heracles and the Hydra

The Hydra was another child of Echidna. It was a multiheaded, snakelike water creature. In many myths, cutting off one head made one or more grow!

Heracles—also known as Hercules—was told to complete many tasks. One was killing the Hydra. To do this, he needed help. Heracles cut off the heads and his nephew helped burn the necks

Theseus and the Minotaur

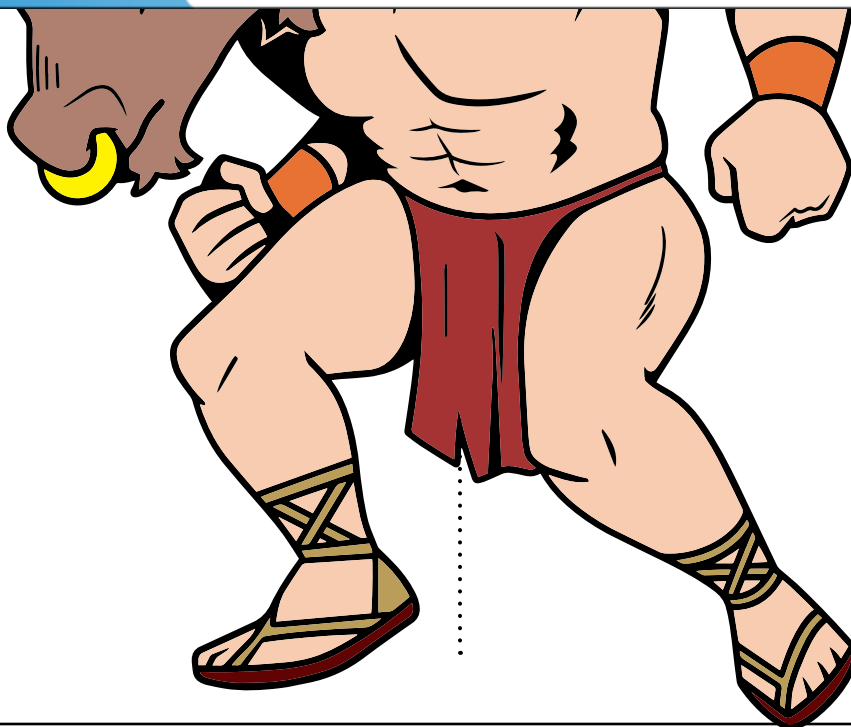
Poseidon gave king Minos a beautiful bull to sacrifice. When Minos refused to, Poseidon punished him. He made Minos's wife give birth to the half-bull Minotaur. Minos kept the Minotaur in a giant maze. He fed his enemies to it.

Theseus wanted to stop the feedings. He entered the maze and used a ball of yarn so he



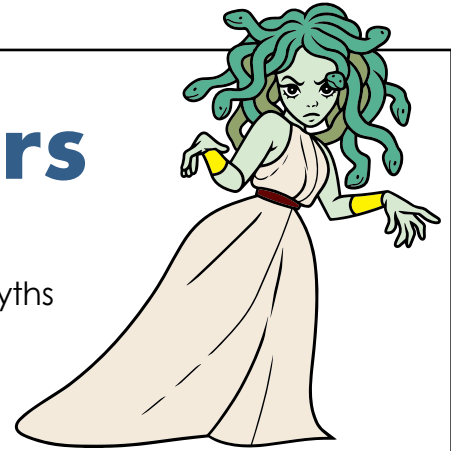
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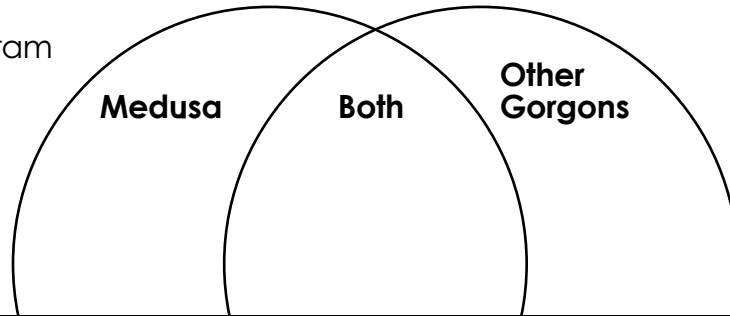
Name: _____

Heroes and Monsters



1. What was the author's main purpose for writing this?
 - a. to compare and contrast Greek hero and monster myths
 - b. to give examples of Greek hero and monster myths
 - c. to scare or inspire readers with Greek monster myths
 - d. to describe the traits of Greek heroes

2. Complete the Venn diagram using details from the text to compare and contrast Medusa and her sisters.

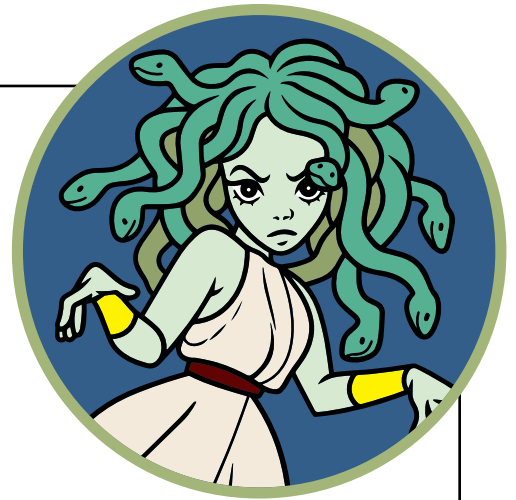


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- c. The hero had a human relative help him win.
 - d. The hero was sent or told to fight by someone else.
4. Based on the text, which is a reasonable inference about Greek heroes?
 - a. All Greek heroes kill human-eating monsters.
 - b. All Greek heroes ride special horses.
 - c. All Greek heroes fight using a sword.
 - d. All Greek heroes do difficult, amazing things.
 5. Some people feel sorry for the Minotaur. Others don't. Use at least one detail from the text to explain why you do or don't feel sorry for him.

Name: _____

Heroes and Monsters



The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the reading. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.

1. _____ c a s f i e r c i
clue: to kill or give up in honor of something
2. _____ w h e p e n
clue: son of your sibling; helped kill the Hydra



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6. _____ t h o m y g o l y
clue: group of stories from one religion or culture
7. _____ d a l e
clue: soft metal that melts more easily than most
8. _____ E d a n i c h
clue: mother of many Greek monsters
9. _____ s h u p n i t m e t
clue: possible result of doing something bad
10. _____ r i C h e a m
clue: monster with lion and goat heads

Name: _____

Heroes and Monsters



In the reading, "Heroes and Monsters," you learned two Greek monster myths about children of Echidna. Other children in some myths include Cerberus, Orthrus, the Sphinx, the Nemean lion, and Ladon.

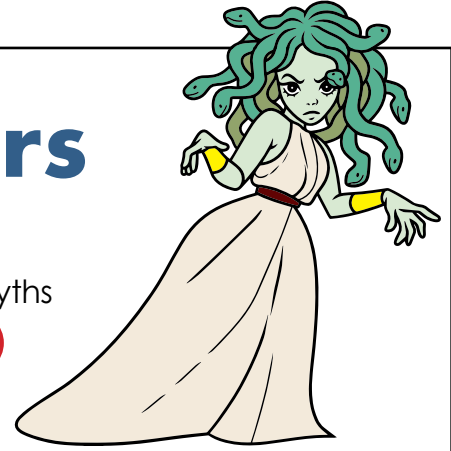
With an adult's permission, use the internet to research one of those monsters. Describe what they look like and what role they play in Greek mythology. If there are multiple versions of the stories, you can pick one. On the back of this page, write the address(es) for the website(s) you used for your research.



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ANSWER KEY

Heroes and Monsters



1. What was the author's main purpose for writing this?
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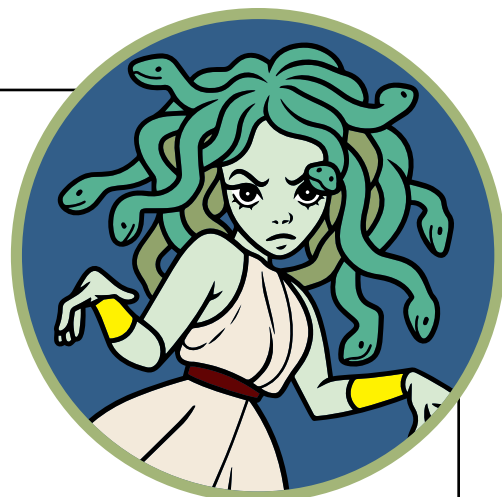


5. Some people feel sorry for the Minotaur. Others don't. Use at least one detail from the text to explain why you do or don't feel sorry for him.

Answers will vary. An example is: Yes, I feel sorry for him, because he didn't ask to be put in the maze. // No, I don't feel sorry for him, because he ate people.

ANSWER KEY

Heroes and Monsters



The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the reading. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.

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9. punishment

s h u p n i t m e t

clue: possible result of doing something bad

10. Chimera

r i C h e a m

clue: monster with lion and goat heads