

IN BRIEF

Jason and the Argonauts is a classic myth from Ancient Greece. Jason goes on a great voyage to get the Golden Fleece – and many famous heroes come along for the ride! It features monsters, mysteries, magic and cunning villains...



1 LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- If you don't recognise words in this month's stories, don't be afraid to look them up in the **Storytime Glossary**. It's a great way to build your word power!
- Once you have read Jason's story, why not discuss it? The **Class Discussion Sheet** has some questions that will encourage you to think about the lessons we can learn from this famous myth...
- On this **Reading Comprehension Sheet**, see if you can spot proper nouns and even an *onomatopoeia* (a word that sound like the thing it is describing). **Fun fact:** the word 'onomatopoeia' is not actually an onomatopoeia!
- People have been retelling the tale of Jason and the Argonauts for thousands of years – so why not write your own version on the **Storyboard** worksheet?
- What are the most important facts about this month's adventure? Fill out the **Story Structure Sheet** and identify the main people, places and events.
- Find out how well you know the story of Jason by putting the events back in the right order on the **Story Sequencing Sheet!**
- This month's story ends with Jason and his friends setting off back to Iolcos on the *Argo*. What do you think will happen to them? Why not come up with your own story, using the **Story Cards**? Print them out, cut them out, and then shuffle them. Start writing or telling your tale, and then draw a card when you need to know who appears next!

Continued on page 2...

- The Argonauts were an all-star group of Ancient Greece's greatest heroes! Find out more about the main ones on the **Meet the Argonauts** reference sheet, and read about their adventures in earlier issues of **Storytime!**
- It's surprisingly easy to create your own amazing myth! **The Hero's Journey** sheet has an easy-to-follow flowchart that will help you come up with an original adventure...
- How many words can you make out of the letters in the word 'Argonauts'? See if you can fill in all of the spaces on our **Word Pyramid** puzzle page!
- Test your knowledge of this month's story with the **Mythic Quiz!** How many true-or-false questions did you get right?
- What is even more fun than reading a story? Acting it out! Print and cut out the **Jason, Medea** and **Soldier Masks**, and put on a play based on one of the scenes...



GEOGRAPHY LESSON IDEA

- Test out your map-reading skills on the **Jason's Journey** page! Can you draw a line showing where Jason sailed on his quest to Colchis on a map of Ancient Greece and the surrounding area?



ART LESSON IDEAS

- Myths are full of amazing monsters, but you can also make up your own! Combine two or more animals to make a new monster on the **Make a Monster!** sheet. Draw what it looks like, and don't forget to give it a weakness that heroes can use against it...
- Colour in a picture of Jason's famous ship on the **Argo Colouring** page!

STORYTIME GLOSSARY

1 OF 2

Don't know a word in a story?
Find out what it means here!

A Tiger's Journey (Page 6)

- ▷ **Musty** – damp-smelling
- ▷ **Blinked** – closed her eyelids quickly
- ▷ **Foot-pads** – pads on bottom of feet
- ▷ **Twitched** – moved quickly
- ▷ **Grumbled** – said in a complaining way
- ▷ **Muttered** – said quietly
- ▷ **Northwards** – towards the north
- ▷ **Boulders** – very large rocks
- ▷ **Stumps** – leftover bottom parts of trees
- ▷ **Sawing down** – cutting down
- ▷ **Sharp** – sudden and very loud
- ▷ **Scurried** – moved quickly
- ▷ **Panting heavily** – breathing hard
- ▷ **Prey** – things that hunting animals catch
- ▷ **Pounced on** – jumped on
- ▷ **Gleaming** – shining
- ▷ **Fangs** – long, sharp teeth
- ▷ **Clawed** – made marks with claws
- ▷ **Territory** – place she owns

The Lion in Love (Page 11)

- ▷ **Magnificent** – impressive
- ▷ **Velvety** – soft, like velvet cloth
- ▷ **Stream** – small river
- ▷ **Smitten** – a little bit in love
- ▷ **Growling** – sounding like 'growl'
- ▷ **Permission** – agreement
- ▷ **Makeover** – a new style
- ▷ **Slammed** – shut in a loud way
- ▷ **Unique** – unlike anyone else

The Junkyard Genius (Page 14)

- ▷ **Flourishes** – grows well
- ▷ **Hoeing** – breaking up soil with hoe tool
- ▷ **Cartons** – boxes
- ▷ **Devices** – gadgets
- ▷ **Piles** – heaps
- ▷ **Disaster** – very bad event
- ▷ **Harvested** – took from the fields
- ▷ **Tattered** – ragged and damaged
- ▷ **Diagrams** – detailed pictures
- ▷ **Assembled** – put together
- ▷ **Heaved** – lifted with great difficulty
- ▷ **Bolted** – attached with bolts
- ▷ **Conferences** – big meetings
- ▷ **Scholarship** – special offer to study

Uletka and the White Lizard (Page 20)

- ▷ **Cast** – made
- ▷ **Grave** – serious
- ▷ **Unacceptable** – not allowed
- ▷ **Ritual** – set of actions
- ▷ **Alas** – sadly
- ▷ **Peered** – looked
- ▷ **Scampered** – ran quickly
- ▷ **Twigs** – small branches
- ▷ **Ragged** – torn-up
- ▷ **Gnomes** – small dwarf-like mythical beings
- ▷ **Sore** – hurting
- ▷ **Knothole** – round hole in tree
- ▷ **Circlet** – simple crown
- ▷ **Joyful** – happy

STORYTIME GLOSSARY

2 OF 2

Jason and the Argonauts (Page 28)

- ▷ **Ruler** – person who is in charge
- ▷ **Rebellion** – a fight against a ruler
- ▷ **Oracle** – fortune-teller
- ▷ **Wrestling** – sport where you try to grab your opponent and hold them down
- ▷ **Reclaim** – take back
- ▷ **Marched off** – walked off
- ▷ **Surrender** – give up
- ▷ **Heroic** – brave
- ▷ **Quest** – journey in search of something
- ▷ **Rashly** – without thinking about it
- ▷ **Towering** – very tall
- ▷ **Vessel** – ship
- ▷ **Volunteered** – asked
- ▷ **Voyage** – journey in a boat
- ▷ **Leaped** – jumped
- ▷ **Slam** – hit powerfully
- ▷ **Menacing** – frightening
- ▷ **Fluttered** – flew in a gentle way
- ▷ **Cunning** – clever and tricky
- ▷ **Oxen** – large, powerful bulls
- ▷ **Ointment** – medicine put on skin
- ▷ **Ploughed** – dug up earth
- ▷ **Succeeded** – did what he wanted to do
- ▷ **Strode** – walked in a determined way

Thumbelina's Sneeze (Page 34)

- ▷ **Itch** – tingle
- ▷ **Clung onto** – tightly hung onto
- ▷ **Pop out** – come out suddenly
- ▷ **Rush-filled** – full of reeds

- ▷ **Sunlit** – lit up by sunlight
- ▷ **Swooped down** – flew down
- ▷ **Chirped** – made a sound like 'chirp'

Kintaro the Golden Boy (Page 36)

- ▷ **Honourable** – brave and honest
- ▷ **Servants** – people who help someone
- ▷ **Plotted** – secretly planned
- ▷ **Ogres** – big hungry monsters
- ▷ **Argument** – angry discussion
- ▷ **Referee** – person who decides who wins
- ▷ **Grunting** – making sounds like 'grunt'
- ▷ **Tumbling** – falling in a clumsy way
- ▷ **Opponent** – person he was fighting against
- ▷ **Dodge** – move out of the way
- ▷ **Possessions** – things he owned

The Magic Mirror (Page 41)

- ▷ **Trimmed** – cut and tidied up
- ▷ **Town crier** – person who shouts out news
- ▷ **Crooked** – not straight
- ▷ **Puffed up** – made himself look bigger
- ▷ **Chuckled** – laughed quietly
- ▷ **Gossiping** – talking
- ▷ **Haughty** – proud
- ▷ **In the slightest** – at all
- ▷ **Jostled** – pushed

CLASS DISCUSSION SHEET

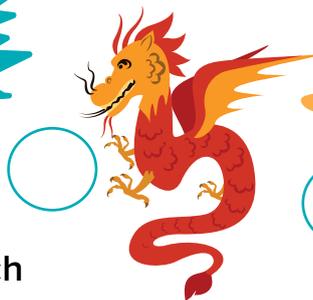
TEXT QUESTIONS

What did you think of this month's mythical tale?
Can you answer these questions about it?

1. How did Chiron the Centaur help Jason to grow up into a strong and smart man? Think about what the centaur taught him!
2. In the story, Jason is the hero – but he still needs help to complete his quest. Can you think of three people who helped him? What lesson do you think we can all learn from this?
3. The story of Jason and the Argonauts includes two wicked kings – Pelias and Aeetes. What do you think they had in common?
4. This story takes place in our world, and the cities mentioned in it are real places that actually existed. However, the story also includes some things that are fictional (not real). Can you name three things in this story that do not exist in the real world?

MATCH THEM!

Based on the descriptions in the story, can you match the mythical creatures to their names?



1 CENTAUR



2 DRAGON



3 HARPY

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Answers: 1. Chiron taught Jason many things and made sure he got exercise, which made him smart and strong. 2. Jason got help from Chiron, Argus and Medea. Even heroes need help sometimes! 3. Both kings preferred to use tricks to deal with problems – and neither was a match for Jason! 4. Centaurs, harpies, flaming oxen and dragons do not exist in the real world! **Match Them!** – The centaur is half-man and half-horse, the dragon looks like a red lizard, and the harpy is a mix of woman and bird.

NAME _____

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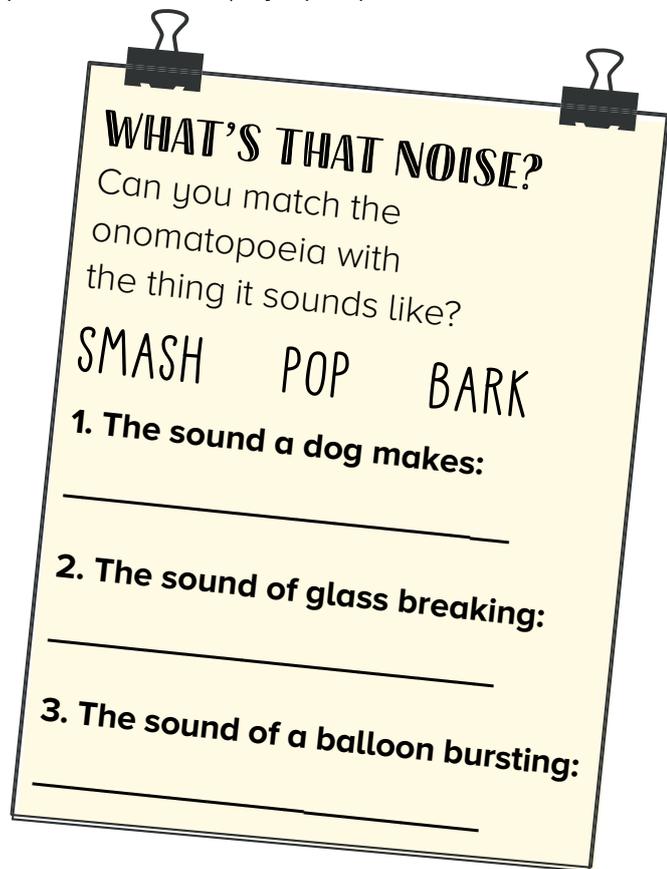
READING COMPREHENSION SHEET

In this exercise, you can go on a quest to find the mythical proper nouns, and even discover the mysterious onomatopoeia!

As the Clashing Rocks moved apart again, Jason told his men to row for their lives. They paddled as hard as they could, and got through just before the rocks slammed together behind them with an almighty BOOM!

The *Argo* carried its crew through waves and storms to Colchis, where they were greeted by the cunning king Aetes.

1. A *proper noun* is the name of a particular person, place or thing. There are five proper nouns in this extract – can you spot them all? (**Tip:** proper nouns start with capital letters.)
2. What do you think it means when Jason tells the Argonauts to ‘row for their lives’?
3. An *onomatopoeia* is a word that sounds like what it is describing. Can you find an onomatopoeia in the extract?
4. What do you think the word ‘almighty’ means? Can you think of a word that is similar to ‘almighty’?



WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
Can you match the onomatopoeia with the thing it sounds like?

SMASH POP BARK

1. The sound a dog makes:

2. The sound of glass breaking:

3. The sound of a balloon bursting:

Answers: 1. *Clashing Rocks, Jason, Argo, Colchis and Aetes.* 2. It means to row as if their lives depended on it. 3. *Boom and slammed* are both onomatopoeias. 4. *Almighty* means 'extremely powerful'. It is a contraction of the words 'all' and 'mighty'.
What's That Noise? – 1. *bark*, 2. *smash*, 3. *pop*.

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JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS STORYBOARD

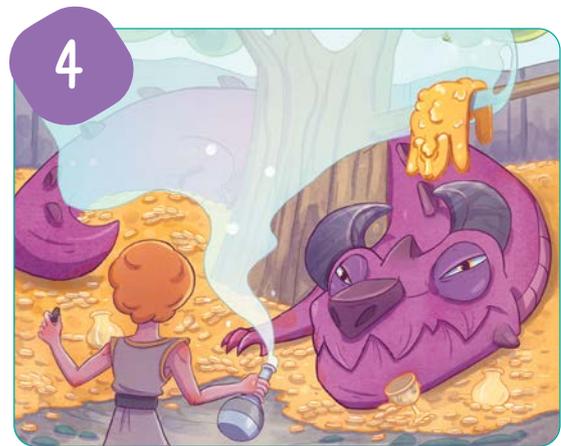


People have been retelling the story of Jason and the Argonauts for thousands of years! Write your own version of the story underneath the pictures below...









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STORY STRUCTURE SHEET

Where is the story set?

When is the story set?

Who are the main characters in the story?

What is the main problem in the story?

What is the solution?

How does the story end?

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MYTHS AND LEGENDS: JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS



STORY SEQUENCING SHEET

There has been a mythic mix-up!
Can you put these events back
in the right order?

Jason completed these tasks with help from Aeetes' daughter Medea, who was very clever and liked Jason.

To make the journey to the Golden Fleece, Jason asked the craftsman Argus to make him a ship, called the *Argo*.

Jason's mother sent him to be raised by the wise centaur Chiron, who taught him many things.

When Jason reached Iolcos and demanded that Pelias give him the throne, Pelias agreed – if Jason could bring him the Golden Fleece.

Aeetes then broke his promise and locked Jason and the Argonauts up – but they escaped with the fleece, with help from Medea.

After a long voyage and many dangers, Jason and the Argonauts reached the city of Colchis, where the Golden Fleece was.

When Jason was grown up, he set off to the city of Iolcos to reclaim the throne from his uncle.

Cunning King Aeetes of Colchis agreed to let Jason have the Golden Fleece if he could complete three seemingly-impossible tasks.

Jason was the son of Aeson, king of Iolcos – but his wicked uncle Pelias threw Aeson into prison and took the throne for himself!

Many heroes from across Greece volunteered to join Jason on his voyage. They were named the Argonauts, after the *Argo*.

Along the way, he met an old lady and helped her across a river. Jason did not know it, but this was the goddess Hera in disguise!

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STORY CARDS

What do you think happened to Jason and his friends after they left Colchis? Why not make up your own story using these cards? Just draw a card to see who turns up in the story next!

	JASON		PELIAS
	CASTOR & POLLUX		MEDEA
	HERCULES		DRAGON

MEET THE ARGONAUTS

Nobody knows exactly how many Argonauts there were, and almost every city in Greece claimed that their favourite hero joined Jason on his quest! However, you can find out about the most important Argonauts below...

Name	Who were they?	Famous for...	Read in:
 Jason	Son of Aeson, rightful king of Iolcos and leader of the Argonauts	Completing Aeetes' three tasks and retrieving the Golden Fleece	Issue 82
 Argus	A great craftsman!	Creating the ship the <i>Argo</i> , which was named after him	Issue 82
 Atlanta	The only female member of the <i>Argo's</i> crew	Being a very fast runner! The hero Hippomenes married her after winning a race against her – but he only succeeded because he threw golden apples in her path and she stopped to pick them up!	Issue 14
 Castor and Pollux	Ancient Greece's mightiest twins!	Their cattle-stealing contest with two other mythical twins, named Lynceus and Lyceus	
 Hercules	Being the son of the god Zeus and a human woman, and the strongest Greek hero of them all!	Completing twelve 'impossible' tasks to prove himself worthy of living among the gods	Issue 24
 Philoctetes	Cousin of Hercules, who inherited the great hero's bow	While on his way to the Trojan war, he was bitten on the foot by a snake. This made his foot go stinky – so his 'friends' left him behind on a desert island!	Coming soon in Issue 86
 Theseus	A prince from Athens	Entering the labyrinth of King Minos and slaying the monstrous Minotaur	Issue 12

THE HERO'S JOURNEY!

The story of Jason and the Argonauts is a classic legend about a great quest! It is easy to create your own mythic adventure, using this handy planner. Be creative and have fun!



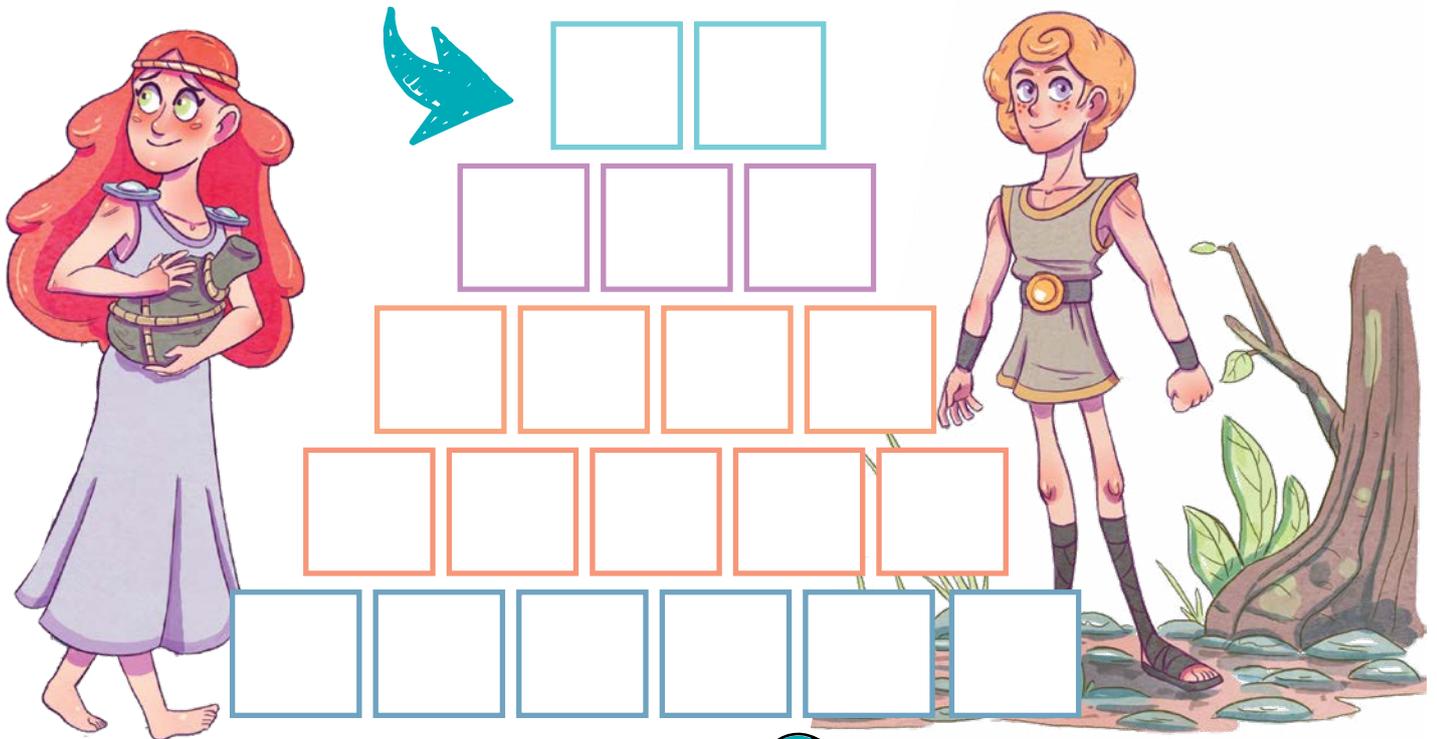
NAME _____

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WORD PYRAMID

How many words can you make out of the letters in the word 'Argonauts'?
Fill in a two-letter word in the top row, a three-letter word in the second row,
and so on. Can you fill in all the boxes?

ARGONAUTS



HEROIC ADJECTIVES

What words would you use to describe the Argonauts?
Circle the six words which could be used to describe these legendary heroes!

- Shy
- Brave
- Weak
- Strong
- Courageous
- Cowardly
- Meek
- Bold
- Daring
- Adventurous

Answers: Brave, strong, courageous, bold, daring and adventurous.

MYTHIC QUIZ!

How well do you know the story of Jason and the Argonauts?
Test your knowledge with this tricky true-or-false quiz!

1 The Argo was the first ship that Argus had ever built.

TRUE FALSE

2 Wicked King Pelias was Jason's grandfather.

TRUE FALSE

3 Jason released a hawk to fly between the Clashing Rocks.

TRUE FALSE

4 The old woman by the river was secretly a witch.

TRUE FALSE

5 Jason was protected from the dragon's fire by Medea's magic ointment.

TRUE FALSE

6 The goddess Hera made Medea fall in love with Jason.

TRUE FALSE

7 The teeth Jason planted in the ground grew into warriors.

TRUE FALSE

8 After Jason got the Golden Fleece, Aetes let him marry Medea.

TRUE FALSE



Answers: 1. TRUE, 2. FALSE, 3. FALSE, 4. FALSE, 5. TRUE, 6. TRUE, 7. TRUE, 8. FALSE.

NAME _____

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MAGICAL PROBLEM-SOLVING!



In Greek myths, clever characters like Medea often overcome obstacles by using magical items! Can you match the item with the challenge it can solve?

CHALLENGE 1:
Tame and ride Pegasus, the wild winged horse.

CHALLENGE 2:
Find your way out of a maze without getting lost.

CHALLENGE 3:
Distract Atlanta so you can win a running race.

CHALLENGE 4:
Put a huge and powerful dragon to sleep.

CHALLENGE 5:
Avoid the gaze of Medusa so you don't get turned to stone.

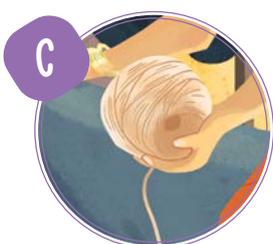
CHALLENGE 6:
Fly to the far-away island where Medusa lives.



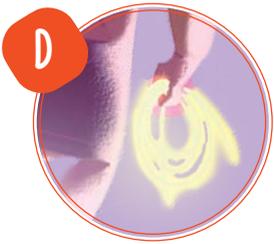
A Bottle of Magic Smoke



B Mirror Shield



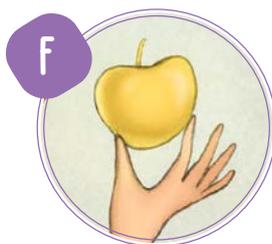
C Ball of thread



D Magic Bridle



E Winged Sandals



F Golden Apples

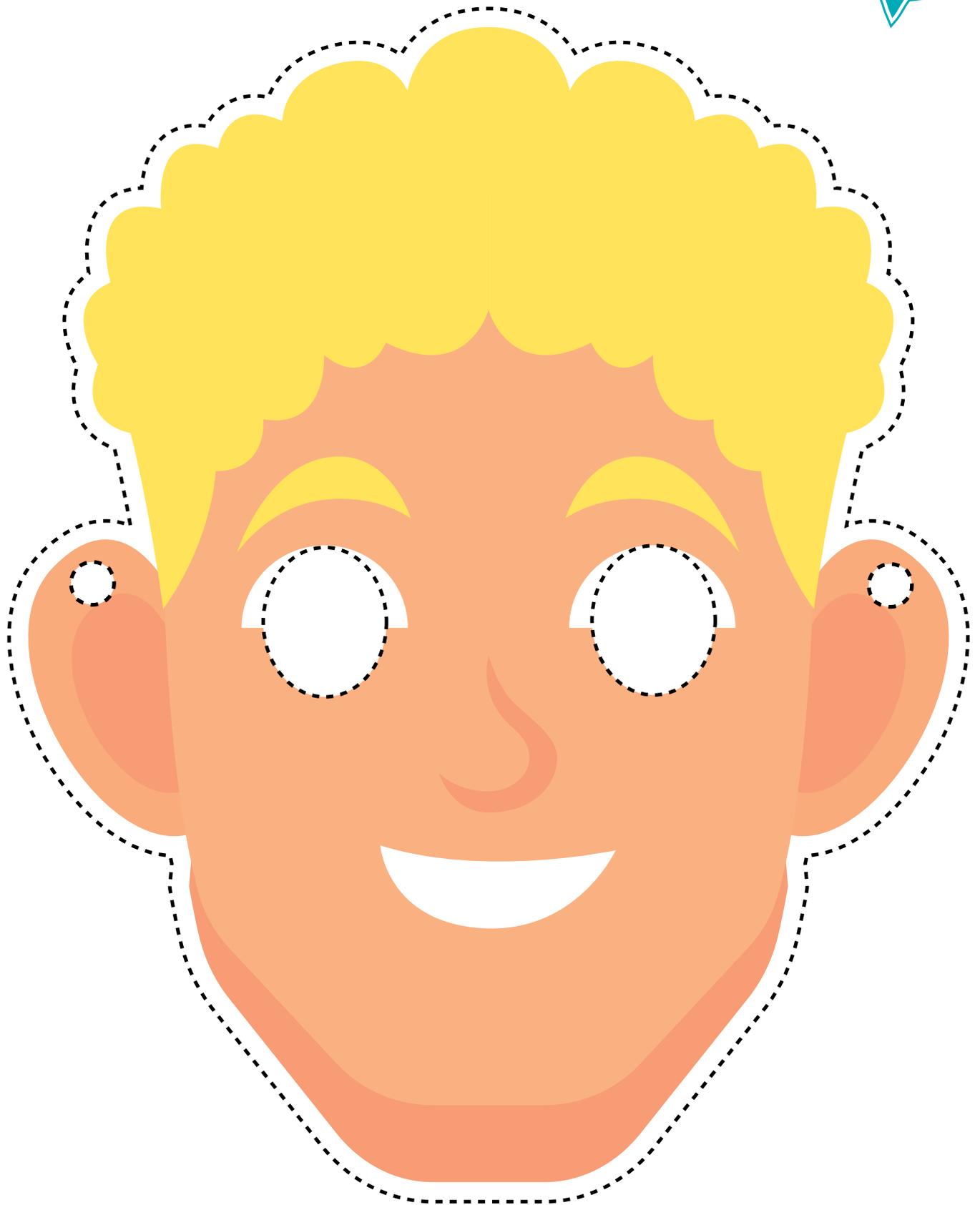
Myth Match!
Do you know which Ancient Greek myths these items appeared in?

Answers: 1: D, 2: C, 3: F, 4: A, 5: B, 6: E. **Myth Match!**
A: Jason and the Argonauts, B: Perseus and Medusa, C: Theseus and the Minotaur, D: Pegasus the Winged Horse, E: Perseus and Medusa, F: Atlanta and the Golden Apples.

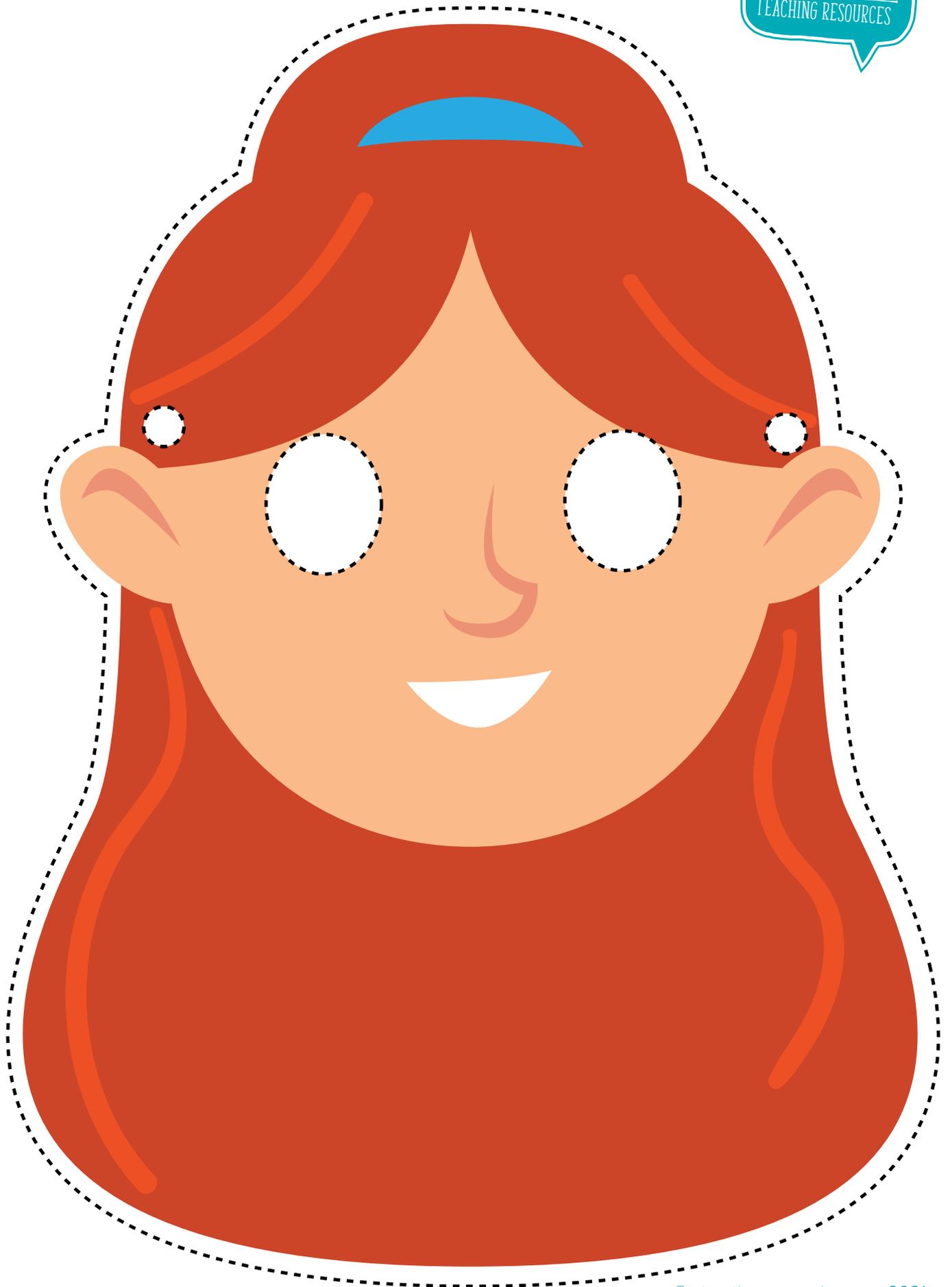
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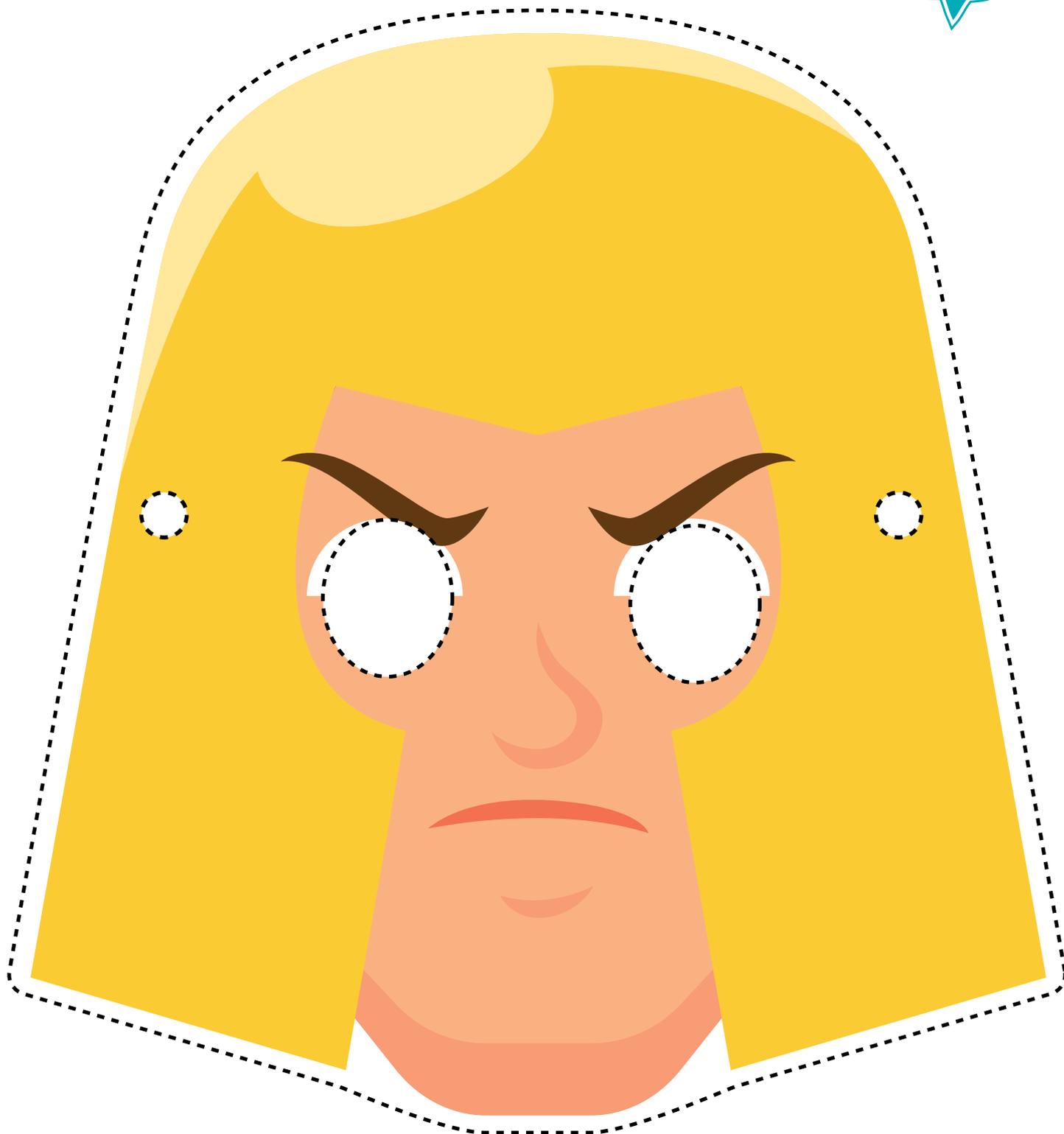
JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS: JASON MASK



JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS: MEDEA MASK



JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS: SOLDIER MASK



NAME _____

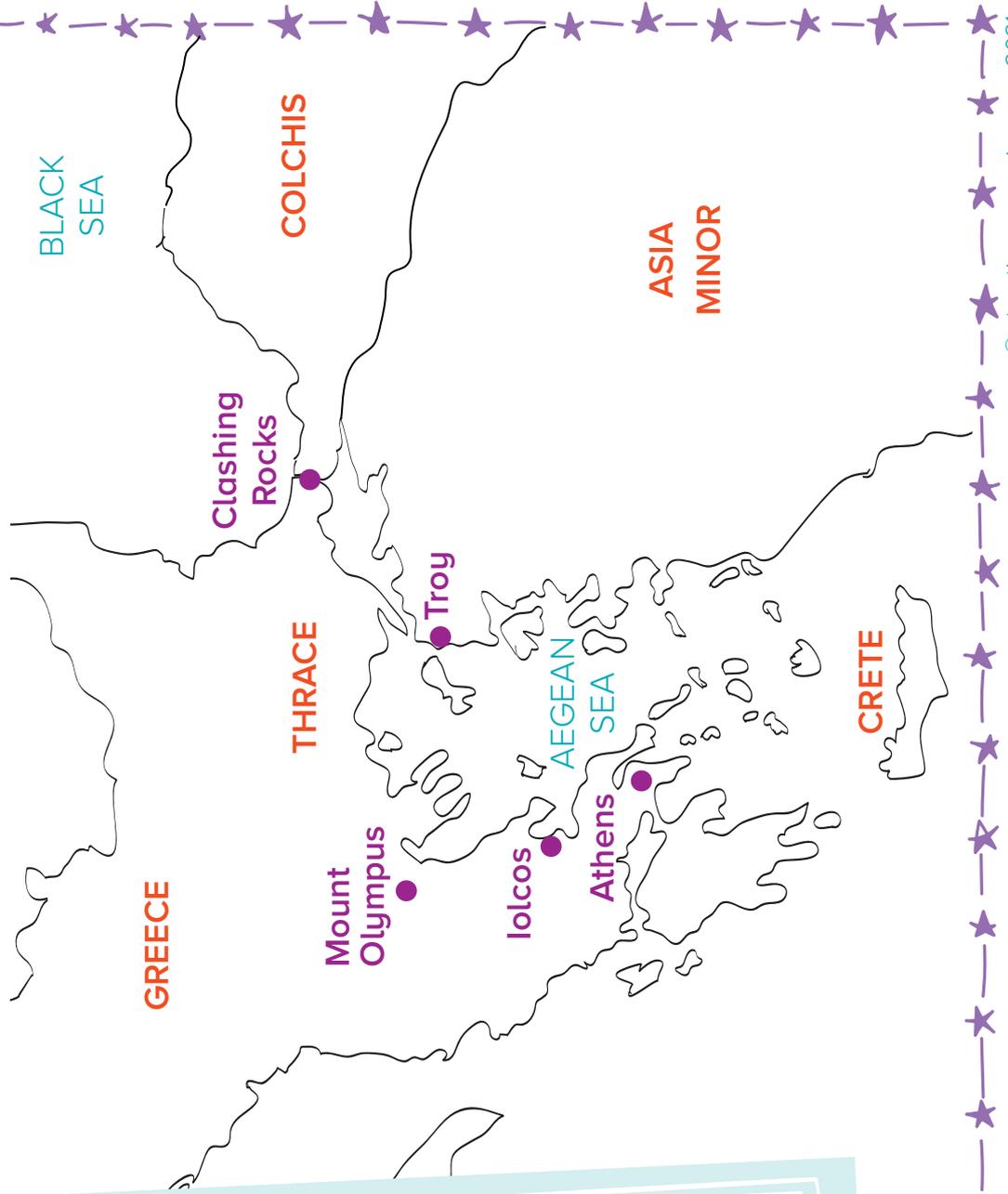
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JASON'S JOURNEY

Here are the places that the Argonauts went!

1. They started in the city of **IOLCOS**, where Jason came from.
2. They stopped in **THRACE**, where they drove off the harpies for King Pelias.
3. Pelias told them how to safely get through the **CLASHING ROCKS**.
4. They sailed to **COLCHIS**, where they found the Golden Fleece.

Can you draw a line showing the journey of Jason and the Argonauts from Iolcos to Colchis and the Golden Fleece? Colour in the map as well!



MAKE A MONSTER!

Greek monsters were often made up of two or more animals mixed together! Why not combine some creatures to create your very own mythical monster?

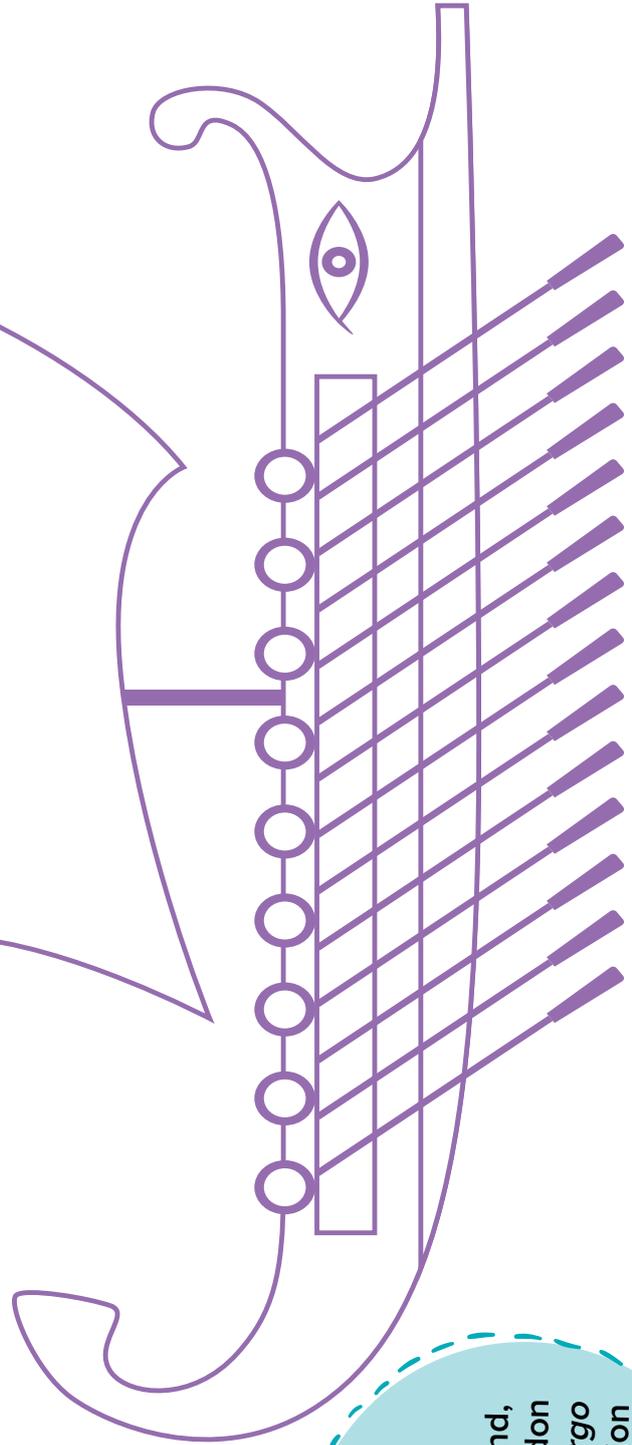
My monster is called a _____ .
It is a cross between a _____ and a _____ .
It lives in _____ . It guards a _____ .
Its weakness is _____ .

NAME _____

CLASS _____

ARGO COLOURING

The *Argo* was the most famous ship in Greek legends! Colour in this picture of a vessel fit for heroes!



DID YOU KNOW?

According to legend, the sea god Poseidon transformed the *Argo* into the constellation Argo Navis!

NAME _____

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