

Mythology

SHORT ANSWER STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS

Introduction

1. What is the purpose of Greek and Roman mythology?
2. What is the first written record of Greece called, and who was the author?
3. What do the myths show us about the early Greeks?
4. Why did the portrayal of Zeus change over the years?
5. What is the Theogony, and why is it important?

Part One The Gods, The Creation, and The Earliest Heroes

Chapter 1 The Gods

Chapter 2 The Two Great Gods of Earth

1. What did the Greeks believe about the origins of the gods and the universe?
2. Who were the first parents, and who were their children and grandchildren?
3. How did Homer describe Olympus?
4. Give the Roman names for the following gods and goddesses: Zeus, Hades, Artemis, Hermes, Hestia.
5. Give the Greek names for these gods and goddesses: Juno, Neptune, Minerva, Venus, Mars, Vulcan.
6. How was the will of Zeus revealed at the oracle at Dodona?
7. Describe the breastplate, bird, and tree that symbolize Zeus.
8. What was the dual relationship between Zeus and Hera?
9. Describe Hera's personality.
10. Who were Zeus' two brothers, and where did they rule?
11. Briefly describe the characteristics and functions of any two of the following gods and goddesses: Athena, Phoebus Apollo, Artemis, or Aphrodite.
12. Briefly describe the characteristics and functions of any two of the following gods and goddesses: Hermes, Hephaestus, Hestia, Cupid, Ares, or the Muses and Graces.
13. What did Hermes have on his feet, hat, and wand, and why?
14. Name the Gods of the Waters.
15. Who are the main gods of the Underworld?
16. What are the Elysian Fields?
17. Briefly retell the story of Demeter (Ceres).
18. What were the two central ideas in the worship of Dionysus?
19. Why did Dionysus become the center of the belief in immortality?
20. How were Demeter and Dionysus different from the other gods and goddesses?

Chapter 3 How the World and Mankind Were Created

Chapter 4 The Earliest Heroes

1. What did the Greeks think was at the very beginning of things?
2. What were the next six creations, in order?
3. Who was Cronus, and why was he significant?
4. How did Zeus become the ruler of heaven and earth?
5. Describe the Greek concept of the geography of the Earth.

6. Briefly retell the story of Prometheus's creation of mankind.
7. Who was Pandora, and why was she created?
8. Briefly retell the story of Pandora's box.
9. Why did Zeus punish Prometheus, and how did he do this?
10. Who was Io?
11. Briefly retell the story of Europa.
12. Briefly retell the story of Polyphemus.
13. What is the story of Narcissus?
14. Who was Echo?
15. What is the story of Adonis?

Part Two Stories of Love and Adventure

Chapter 5 Cupid and Psyche

Chapter 6 Eight Brief Tales of Lovers

1. Why was Venus angry at Psyche?
2. Was Venus's plan for revenge successful?
3. What did Psyche discover about her mysterious husband, and what happened when she discovered it?
4. What finally happened to Cupid and Psyche?
5. Which lovers arranged a tryst, mistakenly thought the other had been killed, and killed themselves?
6. Identify the lovers in the following summary. He was the son of one of the Muses, and a gifted musician. She died on their wedding day. He went to the underworld and tried, unsuccessfully, to bring her back.
7. This man was killed at sea. Morpheus appeared to his wife and told her that her husband was dead. Then she and her dead husband were turned into birds.
8. He fell in love with a statue that he had made. Venus brought the statue to life and they married. Who were they?
9. What did Baucis and Philemon do?
10. Apollo fell in love with this daughter of the river god Peneus. She did not love him. To protect her, her father turned her into a laurel tree. Who was this?

Part Two Stories of Love and Adventure continued

Chapter 7 The Quest of the Golden Fleece

Chapter 8 Four Great Adventures

1. Why was Jason's journey significant?
2. What was the origin of the Golden Fleece?
3. Why did Jason undertake the search for the Golden Fleece?
4. What were the Harpies, and how were they destroyed?
5. Name Jason's ship and at least one of the heroes who traveled with him.
6. Who were the Amazons?
7. What task did Jason have to perform for King Aëetes in order to get the Golden Fleece?
8. Who helped Jason, and why?
9. Who were Pegasus and Bellerophon?

10. Which father and son used wings made by the father to escape from the Labyrinth, and were they successful?

Part Three The Great Heroes Before the Trojan War

Chapter 9 Perseus

Chapter 10 Theseus Chapter 11 Hercules Chapter 12 Atalanta

1. What was the Medusa, and how did Perseus kill it?
2. How did Perseus use Medusa's head to help his mother?
3. Theseus was raised in a city away from his father, King Aegeus of Athens. How did the King know that Theseus was his son when they finally met?
4. What was the Minotaur, and how did Theseus kill it?
5. How did Theseus change the government when he became King of Athens?
6. Who was the strongest man on earth, and the great hero of Greece except for Athens?
7. Why did Hercules perform his twelve labors?
8. Briefly describe one of the twelve labors of Hercules.
9. Whom did Atalanta tell her father she would marry?
10. Whom did Atalanta marry, and how did he win her?

Part Four The Heroes of the Trojan War

Chapter 13 The Trojan War

Chapter 14 The Fall of Troy

1. From which source did Hamilton take most of the story of the Trojan War?
2. What was the Judgment of Paris?
3. What was the cause of the Trojan War?
4. Who were the main combatants and gods on the Greek side?
5. Who were the main combatants on the Trojan side?
6. Who was killed during the battle between Achilles and Hector?
7. How was Achilles killed?
8. What did Diomedes steal from the city of Troy, and why?
9. How did the Greeks finally get into Troy?
10. Which of the Trojans escaped, and who helped them?

Part Four The Heroes of the Trojan War continued

Chapter 15 The Adventures of Odysseus

Chapter 16 The Adventures of Aeneas

1. From which mythology source did Edith Hamilton take the adventures of Odysseus?
2. What caused Athena to become angry at the Greeks?
3. How did Poseidon avenge Athena?
4. What was happening with Penelope, wife of Odysseus, while he was trying to get home?
5. Who was Telemachus, and what did he do?
6. How did the Phaeacians help Odysseus?
7. What happened to Odysseus and his men when they reached Circe's island?
8. Where did Odysseus have to go to find out how to get home?
9. How did Odysseus get rid of the suitors when he arrived home?

10. What is the source for the adventures of Aeneas?
11. Why did Aeneas go on a journey?
12. Who was Dido, and why was she important?
13. What role did Juno and Venus have in the story of Aeneas?
14. Where did Aeneas go when he left Carthage?
15. Briefly describe the war in Italy.

Part Five The Great Families of Mythology

Chapter 17 The House of Atreus

Chapter 18 The House of Thebes

Chapter 19 The Royal House of Athens

1. Name two of the members of the house of Atreus.
2. Who brought all of the misfortunes on the house of Atreus?
3. What was the evil deed Tantalus committed?
4. What punishment did Tantalus receive for this deed?
5. What did Tantalus's daughter, Niobe, do, and how was she punished?
6. Why had Agamemnon killed his daughter Iphigenia?
7. How did Agamemnon die?
8. What happened to Clytemnestra and her lover, Aegisthus?
9. What one good thing resulted from Orestes's repentance?
10. What did Cadmus do?
11. What happened to Cadmus and Harmonia, and what did this show?
12. What wrongs did Oedipus commit?
13. Did he commit this crime knowingly?
14. What punishment did Oedipus inflict upon himself?
15. Why was Antigone killed?
16. How did Theseus, King of Athens, help Adrastus and the relatives of the chieftains who fought against Thebes?
17. For what was Cecrops noted?
18. How did Philomela let Procne know of Tereus's evil deeds?
19. What happened to Procne and Philomela?
20. How did Cephalus test Procris's devotion to him?
21. How were Creusa and Ion reunited?

Part Six The Less Important Myths

Chapter 20 Midas and Others

Chapter 21 Brief Myths

1. What wish did Bacchus grant to Midas, and what was the result?
2. For what was Aesculapius honored?
3. What wrong did the Danaids do, and what was their punishment?
4. What was Arachne's misdeed, and what was her punishment?
5. Which human lover of Zeus' was changed into the Great Bear and placed in the sky?
6. For what was the centaur Chiron known?
7. Why were the Myrmidons created?
8. Which great hunter was placed in the sky as a constellation?
9. Who were the Pleiades?

10. What did Sisyphus do, and how was he punished?

Part Seven The Mythology of the Norsemen

Introduction Chapter 22 The Stories of Signy and Sigurd

Chapter 23 The Norse Gods

1. What was Asgard like?
2. What was the Norse outlook on good and evil?
3. What was the choice the Norse hero made?
4. What was the central theme of the Norse mythology?
5. Briefly retell the story of Signy and Sigmund.
6. Whom did Sigurd rescue?
7. How does Sigurd die?
8. How did Balder die?
9. Describe Odin and his duties.
10. Who were the Valkyries?
11. Which days of the week were named after Norse gods?
12. Who ruled the Kingdom of Death?
13. How did Odin and his brothers make the world?
14. Who was the Thunder-god?
15. Who was Odin's wife?
16. Who was Tyr?
17. Who was the Goddess of Love and Beauty?
18. What was Midgard?
19. What did the Norsemen believe would happen after Odin and the other gods were defeated by evil?
20. What, according to Hamilton, were the Norsemen's two characteristics?