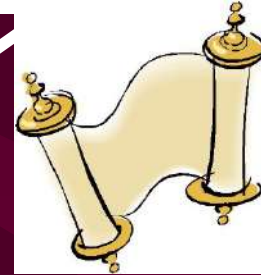


# Note Taking Fun! Mind Map



The Story  
"The  
Odyssey"

History



The Odyssey:  
Introduction  
Notes

Mythology



The Author -  
Homer

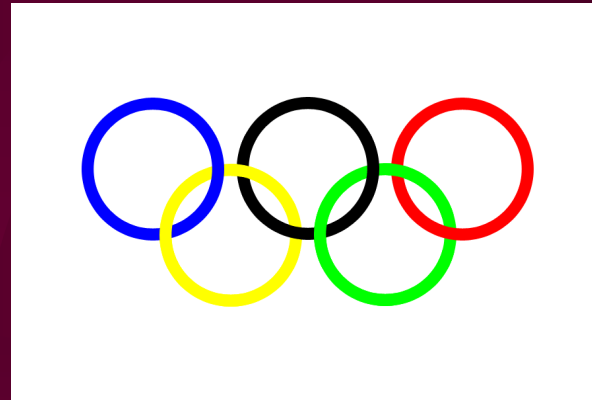
# Introduction to The Odyssey

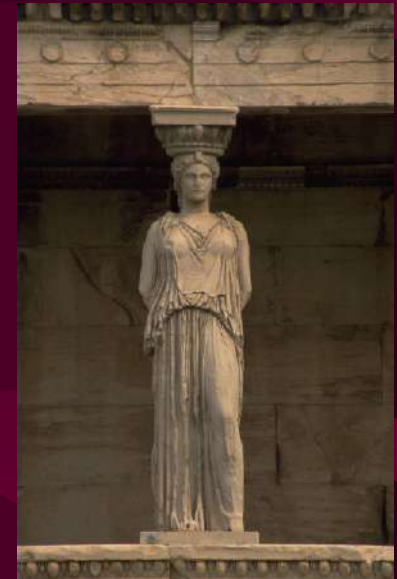
By Homer

(Not Homer Simpson)



# What do you know about the Greeks?





# The History



# Ancient Greece

- What did the Greeks value?
  - Democracy (government)
  - Art and architecture
  - Theater
  - The Gods and Goddesses
  - Sports (First Olympics)
  - Science and Technology



# Greek Values: Terminology

- **Anthropomorphism** : means to give human form or qualities to beings or things not human, especially to gods
- **Polytheism** : means the belief in many Gods
- **Oral Traditions** : to pass down from generation to generation by word off mouth



# The Trojan War

## 13<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Century B.C.

- The Trojans were people from ancient Troy (Turkey)



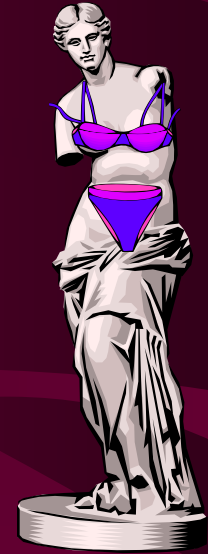
- The Trojan War was fought between the Trojans and the Greeks over the beautiful maiden Helen...
- and you thought you fought over girls and boys... 😊

# The Trojan Horse

- The Greeks wanted to sneak into the gates of Ancient Troy, so they built a giant wooden horse and told the Trojans it was a gift from the Aechaens (Greeks).
- Surprise, surprise! The Greek soldiers hid inside and conquered Troy to win the war!







# The Stories



# Introduction to Mythology

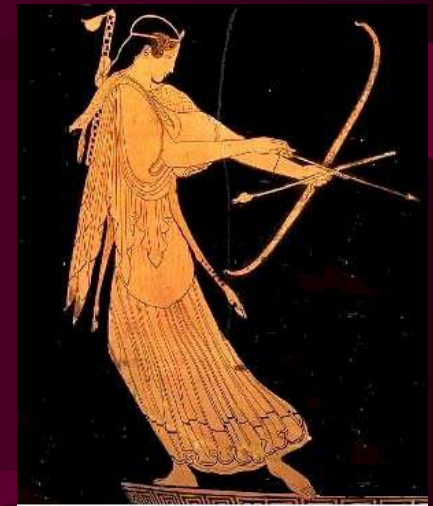
- **Background:** The stories of the Greek myths are all that remain of an ancient religion. The gods and goddesses of stories represent the metaphors that the ancient Greeks used to make sense of the world around them and of life in general.

# Introduction to Mythology

- Those metaphors provided inspiration for a wealth of literature. Since the ancient Greeks began telling these stories in a pre-literate era (before they had writing), at first the stories were passed down from generation to generation orally.

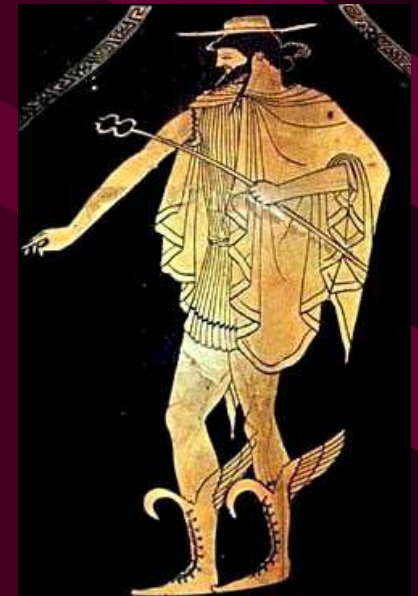
# Introduction to Mythology

- Once poets and dramatists began writing the stories down, they preserved them for future generations. What they preserved, though, is the story as they told it. So we must look at the stories as both religion and literature at the same time. We must treat them with respect.



K6.1 ARTEMIS

# Gods and Goddesses



K11.7 HERMES



# Mt. Olympus

- The Gods and Goddesses of Greek mythology lived on Mt. Olympus above the city of Athens. They were immortal, and they all stood for something that existed in nature. (For example, Apollo is the God of the Sun)
- Many of the Gods had faults, illegitimate children with mortals, and affairs!

# The Immortal gods were also easier to relate to than previous gods

- Unlike religious Gods today, the Greek gods looked and acted human
- But the gods were immortal and would never die because *ichor*, not blood, ran in their veins



# The Heroes



# Mere Mortals

- The heroes, unlike the Gods, were not immortal, and most died on perilous journey's, fighting against the Titans and other Greek monsters, or by the enemy finding out their weaknesses.
- You may recall what an “Achilles Heel” is!



# Our Friend Odysseus

- The hero of The Odyssey goes on one of those dangerous and long journeys, coming across many obstacles and fighting for his life numerous times before being able to return home after 10 years! He comes home to suitors trying to take over his house.
- Now, doesn't homework sound like a piece of cake compared to all that??? 😊

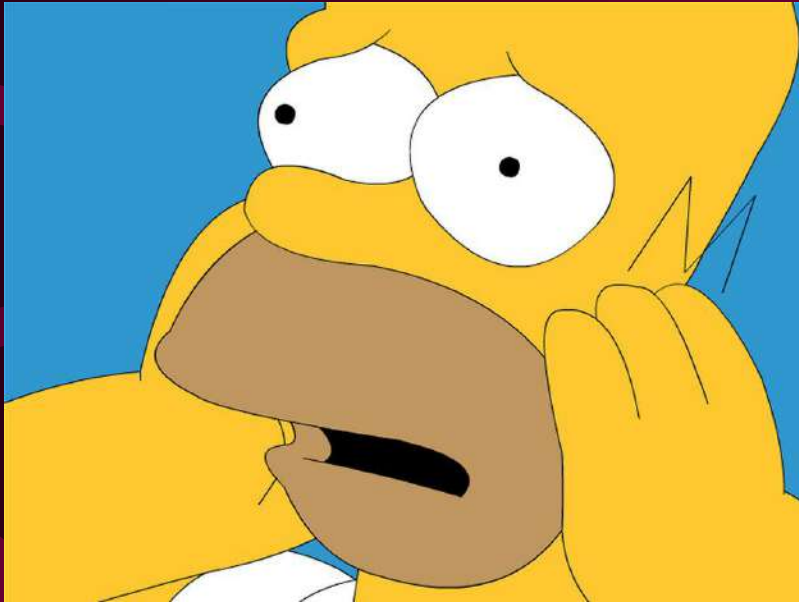






HOMER

# Facts about Homer the Author



- Nothing certain is known
- A theory is that he was a blind minstrel wandering from place to place reciting poems
- Many believe books not written by single person

# Facts about Homer

Major Works  
Both brilliant retellings of myths and legends

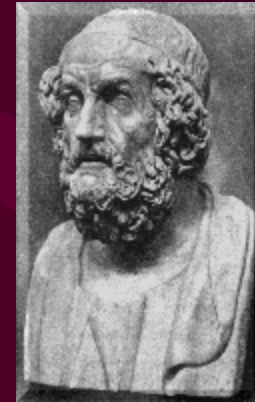
*The Iliad*  
Hero: Achilles  
War: Trojan

Each is filled  
with Greek myths  
and stories of other  
heros.

*The Odyssey*  
Hero: Odysseus  
War: Trojan

# Homer's Life and Times

- 8<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Century B.C.
- Greece
- Oral tradition of storytelling
- The “Iron Age”
  - a time when iron tools were invented as archeologists have determined





# The Odyssey

The epic poem

# What is an epic poem?

- a long narrative poem telling of a hero's deeds
- a narrative poem is one that tells a story

# *The Odyssey*

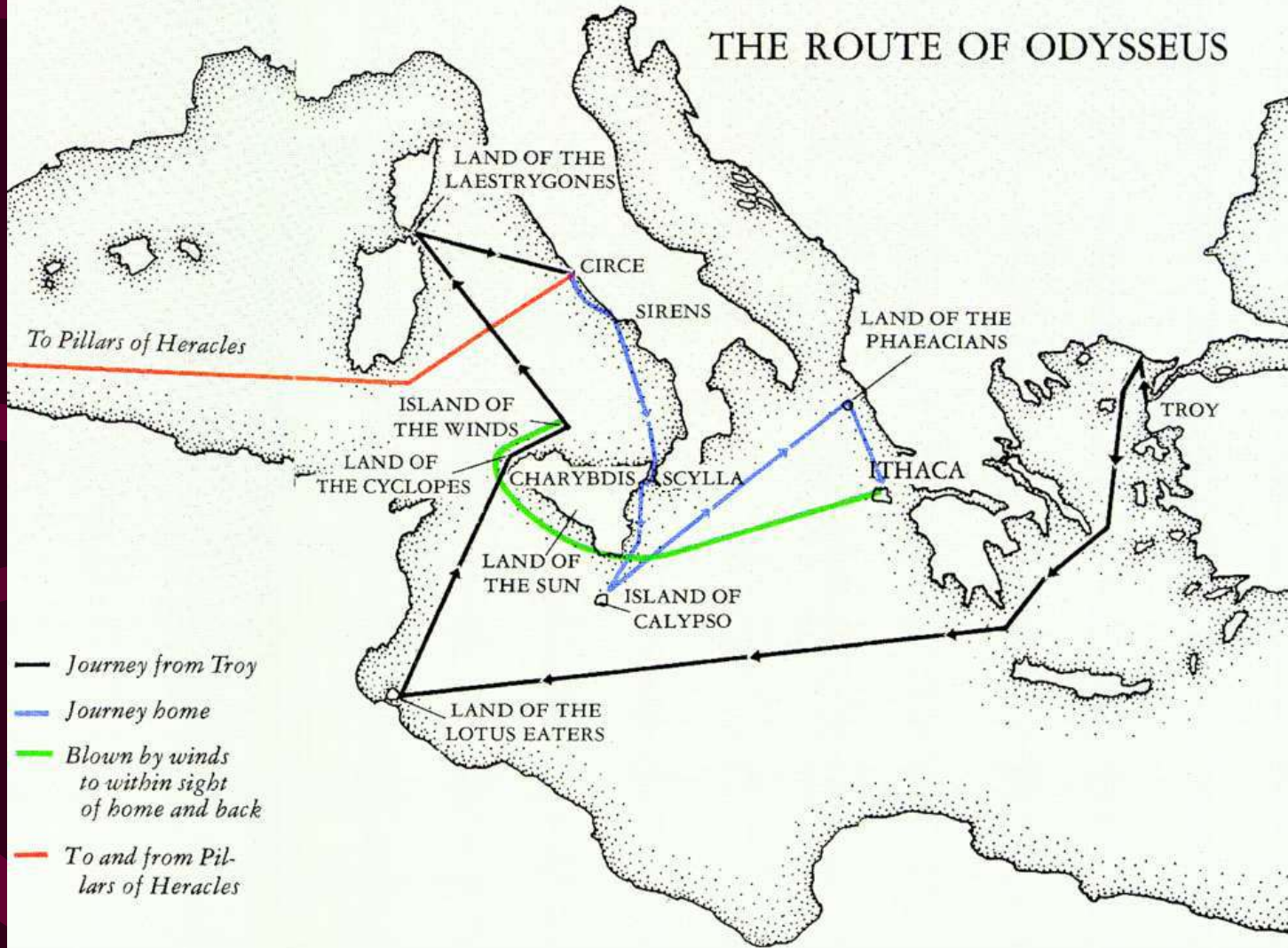
- What does the word odyssey mean?
- An extended adventurous voyage or trip.
- An intellectual or spiritual quest: *an odyssey of discovery.*

# Setting

- During the Bronze Age of Ancient Greece
- In Ancient Greece
- From Troy, all around the islands, back home to Ithaca



# THE ROUTE OF ODYSSEUS





# It's All Greek to Me!

- You will understand the great Greek epic poem *The Odyssey* much better if you first gain knowledge of the gods and goddesses and how it all began...