

Greek Mythology and Homer's *Odyssey* Web Quest  
Eng. I

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_



Read and follow the instructions carefully. You must read the materials on the web pages carefully and completely answer the questions which follow in order to get the full benefit of this introduction to Greek Mythology and Homer's *Odyssey*.

**Background**

1. Click on the following link. Read the entire page and answer the questions which follow.  
<http://messengercommresearch.com/myths/essays/origins.html>.
2. Greek Myths like Homer's *Odyssey* revolve around the religious beliefs of an ancient people who lived in Greece and Asia Minor who shared a common belief in a group of deities that came to be known as \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The stories of the Olympians survived because they had the largest number of followers and, most importantly, The Olympians did not forbid or punish the pursuit of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. These ancient Greeks believed \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ are the blessings of The Immortals and are a vital part of the Greek tradition.
5. The Olympians are descended from the primal, self created gods, beginning with \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The Olympians are ruled by \_\_\_\_\_. He is the strongest and, as you will see, without him, the other Olympians would still be held captive inside their devious father, Kronos.
7. According to the Greeks, the various rivers, mountains and forces of nature are the 'bodies' of the Immortals and proper \_\_\_\_\_ must always be shown if you (they) wish to have peace at home and safe passage when you (they) travel.
8. The oldest myths can be traced to three main sources: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, circa 800 b.c.e. That means that by the time they were written down, these works had survived \_\_\_\_\_ years of additions, subtractions and mutations to finally become the versions we now call 'authentic'.
9. The Greek Myths are our window into the distant past, a view of a world that existed not only in the mind of the Greek poets but in the hearts of the humble and long suffering natives of ancient Greece.
10. Read the "Where to begin" section of the page and record the name of the island that is sacred to Aphrodite \_\_\_\_\_.

## Author

Click on the following link and read to answer the questions which follow

[http://www.pbs.org/empires/thegreeks/background/3a\\_p1.html](http://www.pbs.org/empires/thegreeks/background/3a_p1.html)

11. Who is the author of *The Odyssey*? \_\_\_\_\_
12. According to a hymn written in honour of the god Apollo, he was a \_\_\_\_\_  
from the island of Chios, in the eastern Mediterranean.
13. The **Homeric** tradition was an oral one—that this was a kind of \_\_\_\_\_ made and  
passed down by word of mouth and without the intervention of writing.



## Epic Poetry Definitions

Click on the following link, read, and fill in the blanks to complete the definition of an epic poem below

<http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/documents/Epic.pdf>.

14. An epic in its most specific sense is a genre of classical poetry originating in \_\_\_\_\_. The conventions of this genre are several:
  - (a) It is a \_\_\_\_\_ about a serious or worthy traditional subject.
  - (b) Its diction is \_\_\_\_\_ in style. It employs a formal, dignified, objective tone and many \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (c) The narrative focused on the exploits of a \_\_\_\_\_ who represents the cultural values of a race, nation, or religious group.
  - (d) The hero's success or failure will determine the \_\_\_\_\_ of that people or nation.
  - (e) The action takes place in a vast setting, and covers a \_\_\_\_\_ geographic area. The setting is frequently some time in the \_\_\_\_\_ past.
  - (f) The action contains \_\_\_\_\_ of military prowess.
  - (g) Gods or supernatural beings frequently take part in the \_\_\_\_\_ to affect the outcome.
  - (h) The poem begins with the \_\_\_\_\_ to inspire the poet, a prayer to an appropriate supernatural being. The speaker asks that this being provide him the suitable emotion, creativity, or words to \_\_\_\_\_ the poem.
  - (i) The narrative starts \_\_\_\_\_, in the middle of the action. Subsequently, the earlier events leading up to the start of the poem will be recounted in the characters' \_\_\_\_\_ or in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (j) The epic contains long \_\_\_\_\_ of heroes or important characters, focusing on highborn kings and great warriors rather than peasants and commoners.
  - (k) The epic employs \_\_\_\_\_ (called epic similes) at appropriate spots of the story, and a traditional scene of extended description in which the hero arms himself.

The term applies most directly to classical Greek texts like the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ but it is clear that Roman authors like Virgil intentionally imitate the genre in works like the *Aeneid*.

However, some critics have applied the term more loosely. The Anglo-Saxon poem *Beowulf* has also been called an epic of Anglo-Saxon culture, Milton's \_\_\_\_\_ is called an epic of Christian culture, *El Cid* is an epic of Spanish culture, Longfellow's \_\_\_\_\_ is an epic of American culture, and Shakespeare's various History Plays have been collectively called an epic of Renaissance

Britain. Contrast with the mock epics of Alexander Pope and later Enlightenment writers to see its influence in humorous form.



**On a separate sheet of paper write important information about each of the different characters from Homer's *Odyssey* beside his/her name. Use the Links provided to help you find valuable descriptions of each character. (Must include at least 4 details)**

<http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/odyssey/characters.html>, <http://www.greek-gods.info/>,  
<http://www.pantheon.org/areas/mythology/europe/greek/articles.html>.

<b>Monstors &amp; Challenges</b>	<b>Gods &amp; Goddesses</b>	<b>Humans</b>
Calypso	Cronos	Odysseus
Polyphemus	Zeus	Penelope
Circe	Poseidon	Telemachus
Tiresias	Athena	Eumaeus
Sirens	Apollo	Alcinous
Charybdis	Hermes	Nausicaa
Scylla	Hades	Arete
Lotus Eaters (Lotophagi)	aeolus	Agamemnon
	persephone	Lartes
		Antinous
		Eurycleia
		Melanthius
		Melantho
		Menelaus
		Helen
		Eurymachus
		Lampetia
		Eurylochus
		Eurynome
		Anticlea
		Elpenor