

The Universal Hero

Key terms

- **Heracles** - his Greek name
- **Hercules** - his Roman name
- **Alcmene** - wife of Amphitryon, descendent of Perseus
- **Amphitryon** - husband of Alcmene and nephew of Sthenelus
- **Seer** - a person who reputed to be able to see the future
- **Eileithyia** - daughter of Zeus and Hera, goddess of midwives and childbirth
- **Eurystheus** - son of Sthenelus
- **Iphicles** - son of Alcmene and **Amphytryon**, brother of Heracles
- **Sthenelus** - uncle of Amphitryon and King of Mycenae, descendent of Perseus
- **Hydra** - a many headed serpent monster
- **Hind** - a deer
- **Pithos** - a large clay storage jar
- **Pisa** - a town near Olympia in the Greek Peloponnese
- **Linchpin** - a fastener used to stop a wheel from coming off its axis
- **Pediment** - triangular area at the top of each end of a temple, which could contain sculpture
- **Metope** - square decorative spaces that ran around a Doric temple and could contain sculpture
- **Tiber** - the main river running through Rome
- **Pallas** - a giant who fought against the gods, not to be confused with Evander's son, also called Pallas, or with Athena when called Pallas Athena
- **Centaur** - a mythical creature with the upper body of a man and lower body of a horse
- **Pyre** - a funeral mound made of wood on which to cremate a body

Key Knowledge

Heracles - the Greeks

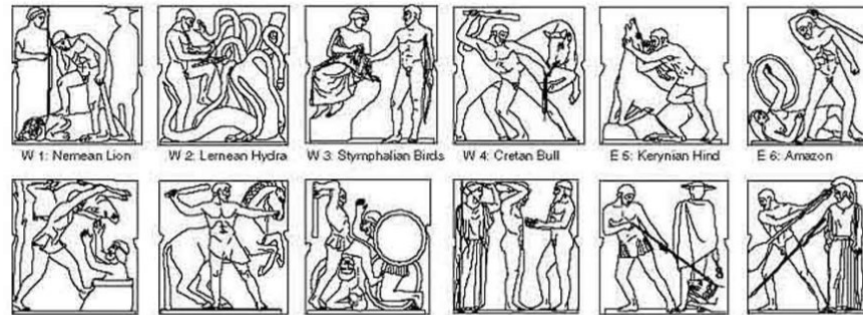
- Heracles as he's known by to the Greeks was a demi-god born to Alcmene after she was tricked into sleeping with Zeus.
- Heracles had a troubled upbringing and was eventually abandoned by his mother and then turned away from Olympus
- Once Heracles was an married adult, Hera still enraged by Zeus' promiscuity send the goddess Madness to infect Heracles which led him to murder his wife, Megara and Children
- Heracles exiled himself from Thebes and after consulting the oracle at Delphi he went to serve King Eurystheus for twelve years, this began his 12 labours
- Originally there were only ten labours but in two of these labours Heracles received help or payment so Eurystheus didn't not consider them proper so demanding two more.
- His twelve labours are shown in the metopes on the Temple of Zeus at Olympia. Below is a reproduction of each as the original marble is incomplete

Hercules - The Romans

- Hercules was inherited from the Greeks and they have woven some of their own history into myths (known to both Greeks and Romans) about Hercules

Virgil, Aeneid

- Hercules and Cacus is a story from Virgil's Aeneid it takes place during Hercules' tenth labour, which the romans believed took place around 500 years before



From: <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu>

Possible Questions

Rome practice questions

1. In the myth of Hercules and Cacus:
 - a. What did Evander do to thank Hercules for his help? (2)
 - b. Why do you think this was significant to the Romans? (2)
2. Why do you think Hercules deserved to become a God? (8)

Greece practice questions

1. Who were Heracles parents and why did this make him a demi-god? (3)
- Study **source A**
- a. Where was this sculpture originally displayed? (1)
 - b. Which of Heracles twelve labours is depicted in Source B and who asked Heracles to do it? (2)
 - c. Why is this myth significant to Olympia? (1)



Romulus found Rome

- Hercules after capturing Geryon's cattle and killing him made his way through Spain, France and finally Italy.
- Cacus was a the son of Vulcan and a fire breathing Giant who lived in the Aventine Hill by the Tiber.
- Cacus steals the cattle off of Hercules and a fight ensues which Hercules eventually wins before presenting Cacus to the people of the area King Evander etc.
- The cult of Hercules in Rome, was a group in Rome that worshiped Hercules.

Ovid, Metamorphoses

Hercules and Achelous

- Hercules and Achelous both want to marry princess Deianira of Aitolia
- Initially both put forward spoken arguments but Hercules enraged by Achelous engaged him in a fight which Hercules won

Hercules and Nessus

- After marrying Deianira, Hercules sought to return home. They cam to a river that was to deep for Deianira. Nessus, a centaur, offered to help but then ran off with her.
- Hercules shot Nessus with a poisoned arrow which killed him
- Before he died he gave Deianira a cloak soaked in his blood trapping the poison, telling her It was a cloak that could revive waning love

The death of Hercules

- Several years later the goddess Juno with the home of the goddess Rumor spread lies about Hercules to his wife.
- She believed Hercules now loved another and in her fear gave him the cloak, it caught alight and stuck to his skin.
- As his died he built a funeral pyre, laid on it and died
- Jupiter gave a speech to the gods asking for Hercules to be admitted to Olympus. They agreed and Hercules shed his mortal form and entered Olympus

Sources

Prescribed	Further
Homeric hymn to Heracles the lion hearted	Euripides, Heracles
The Temple of Zeus at Olympia	Plautus, Amphytro
Virgil - Aeneid	Apollodorus, Bibliotheca
Ovid Metamorphoses	Hesoid, Theogany