

Myths and Symbols - Greek

Key Terms

Lapiths - a mythical race of men based on Thessaly, northern Greece

Centauromachy - mythical battle between the Centaurs and the Lapiths

Amazons - a mythical race of women from Asia Minor

Asia minor - the western two thirds of modern turkey

Amazonomachy - mythic battle between the Greeks and Amazons

Frieze - continuous sculpted scene

Metope - squares of marble showing a scene, normally on a temple

Persia - Empire based in modern day Iran, foreign enemy of Greece

Key figures

Pericles - commissioned the rebuilding of the Parthenon in 449BCE

Heracles - Greek hero and demigod

Theseus - Greek Hero, founder of Athens and demigod

Hippolyte - Queen of the Amazons

Ixion - ruler of the Lapiths

Key Knowledge

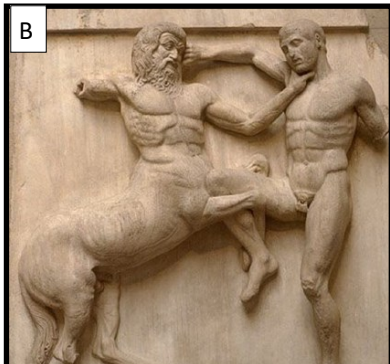
The Centauromachy

The Centauromachy was a mythical battle between the Lapiths and the Centaurs.

The ruler of the Lapiths Ixion was also father of the Centaurs
The Lapiths with the help of the hero Theseus beat the Centaurs and they fled

The Centauromachy was shown on the Parthenon across 34 metopes. The symbol of this was to show Greek superiority over foreign powers. The Parthenon was rebuilt after the battle of Plataea in 479BCE.

You must be able to analyse the metopes. If you are given one as a source think about the following questions: Has the sculptor been successful in conveying the scene, does the sculptor use all the space, is there realism?



The Amazonomachy

Amazonomachy is used when discussing the mythical battles between Greeks and Amazons.

There were two great battles between them. The first was between Heracles and the Amazon queen Hippolyte as his ninth labour.

The second relates to the events after this labour, in which Heracles brought back an Amazonian bride for Theseus as a gift. Enraged that Heracles had done this, the Amazons declared war on Athens.

It is portrayed in sculpture on the Bassae frieze which is shown below. If you are given one as a source think about the following questions: Has the sculptor been successful in conveying the scene, does the sculptor use all the space, is there realism?



Possible Questions

How successfully have the sculptors depicted the Centauromachy? Use **source A** and **B** as a starting point and your own knowledge in your answer. (8)

How successfully have the sculptors depicted the Amazonomachy? Use **source C** as a starting point and your own knowledge in your answer. (8)

Sources

Prescribed

The Centauromachy as depicted on the Parthenon

The Amazonomachy as depicted on the Bassae frieze

Further