

# Heroes

The gods and goddesses not only ruled over the lives of ordinary people, but they even had children with them. Zeus was the father of the greatest Greek hero of them all, Hercules.

## The twelve labors of Hercules

The goddess Hera hated Hercules because he was the son of Zeus and a mortal woman. She wanted to make life difficult for him, so she made him insane and in his insanity he killed his wife and children. When he came out of his insanity he was devastated and asked the god Apollo what he could do to regain his honor. Apollo told Hercules to work for his archenemy Eurystheus for twelve years. Eurystheus gave Hercules 12 seemingly impossible tasks. These he did and became forever the perfect Greek hero.

1. To kill the Nemean Lion.
2. To destroy the Lernaean Hydra.
3. To capture the Ceryneian Hind.
4. To trap the Erymanthian Boar.
5. To clean the Augean Stables.
6. To kill the Stymphalian Birds.
7. To capture the Cretan Bull.
8. To round up the Mares of Diomedes.
9. To steal the Girdle of Hippolyte.
10. To herd the Cattle of Geryon.
11. To fetch the Apples of the Hesperides.
12. To capture Cerberus, guardian dog of Hades.

Number these images to match the correct task.  
Use the information above to help.



b.



c.



a.

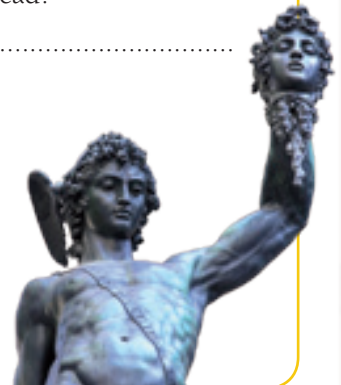
## Perseus and Medusa the Gorgon

Another of Zeus's children was Perseus. He was asked by Polydectes, the king of Seriphos, to bring him the head of Medusa. Medusa was a gorgon whose gaze turned people to stone. Perseus was helped by Athena, who gave him a highly polished shield, and Hermes, who gave him a curved sword. When he reached Medusa's cave, he approached the gorgon by looking at her reflection in the shield. Using the sword he cut off her head and wrapped it in a bag.

Use the information above to answer the following questions.

1. Who gave Perseus the task?  
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2. What was the name of the gorgon?  
.....
3. What did Athena give to Perseus to help him?  
.....  
.....
4. Who else helped Perseus?  
.....
5. Where did Perseus put the gorgon's head?  
.....

Perseus holding Medusa's head



# Activity Answers

## Heroes

### The twelve labors of Hercules

a	
b	
c	
P	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	