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.

Use the information above to answer the following questions.
1. Who gave Perseus the task?
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?

Name ___________________________ Date ______________

© 2008 Dorling Kindersley Limited
Activity Answers

Heroes

The twelve labors of Hercules

1. Perseus and Medusa the Gorgon
2. Polydectes
3. A polished shield
4. Hermes
5. In a bag