



Mythological Creatures Field Guide

Free classroom resources

Greek Myths

Five classroom posters, A3

In this file

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- These posters are A3. To print one on A4, choose "Fit to page" in your print settings.
- The QR code on each poster opens mythologicalcreatures.net/resources.

Minotaur

Say it **MIN-oh-tor** Ancient Greek Μινώταυρος

The bull-headed beast in the Labyrinth, a giant maze on Crete in Ancient Greece.

A ball of thread helped the hero Theseus. Princess Ariadne gave it to him so he could find his way out of the maze.

Its real name was Asterion, meaning 'starry one'.

Where it comes from:
Nearly 4,000 years ago
Palace: Knossos, Crete
About 2,600 years ago
Pottery: a Gorgon cap
About 2,000 years ago
Coins: a labyrinth design
About 2,000 years ago
Retelling: Roman poet Ovid

The Minotaur was born this way and locked in the dark by King Minos. Is it a villain or a victim?

Ancient writers gave the Minotaur a bull's head and a man's body. Greek gods show it too. This picture brings it to life.

Danger **Magi** **Power** **Speed** **Size** **Spooky**

Follow the thread to find out more

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Medusa

Say it **meh-DOO-sah** Ancient Greek Μέδουσα

A Gorgon with snakes instead of hair, from the myths of Ancient Greece.

A shifty shield kept Pegasus safe. He held it up like a mirror, so he never met her eyes.

Her son Pegasus sprang from her neck the moment Perseus defeated her.

Where it comes from:
About 2,600 years ago
Carving: the Corfu Gorgon
More than 2,500 years ago
Pottery: a Gorgon cap
About 2,000 years ago
Retelling: Roman poet Ovid

The oldest pictures show Medusa as a monster. Ovid said she was once beautiful. Which version would you believe, and why?

Greek artists painted Gorgon faces like hats on their red battle shields. This is Ovid's Medusa, not the other monster.

Danger **Magi** **Power** **Speed** **Size** **Spooky**

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Cyclops

Say it **SY-klops** Ancient Greek Κύκλωψ

A giant shepherd with one round eye, from the Odyssey, an Ancient Greek poem.

A trick name fooled Polyphemus. Odysseus said he was 'Nobody'. When the giant yelled for help, the other Cyclopes ignored him.

A different story. Hesiod's three Cyclopes made Zeus's thunderbolts.

Where it comes from:
About 2,700 years ago
Poem: Homer's Odyssey
More than 2,600 years ago
Jars: from Sicily
About 2,500 years ago
Pottery: the ram escape
About 2,000 years ago
Retelling: Roman poet Virgil

Odysseus told this story himself. If Polyphemus told it, what would be different?

Homer's giant Polyphemus had a single eye. Like the three Cyclopes in Hesiod's poem, here he's, brought to life.

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Chimera

Say it **ky-MEER-uh** Ancient Greek Χίμαιρα

A fire-breathing lion, goat and snake, all in one, from Lycia, now in Turkey.

Lies in front, snake behind, goat in the middle, breathing fire: that is how Homer described it.

In English today, a 'chimera' means a mix of very different things.

Where it comes from:
Nearly 2,800 years ago
Poem: Homer's Iliad
More than 2,600 years ago
Pottery: a tiny oil pot
About 2,400 years ago
Status: the Arezzo bronze
Today
Place: a fiery hill in Turkey

Gas flames have burned on a Turkish hill for thousands of years. Why might people tell a fire-monster story there?

Hesiod gave the Chimera three heads: lion, goat and snake. An Etruscan bronze from Sicily shows the giant's head on its back. This is how we picture it.

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Pegasus

Say it **PEG-uh-sus** Ancient Greek Πήγασος

The winged horse tamed by Bellerophon, a hero from Corinth in Ancient Greece.

A golden bridle from Athena helped Bellerophon tame Pegasus. It came in a dream, and it was still there when he woke.

One hoof stamp made a spring called Hippocrene, 'horse's spring'.

Where it comes from:
About 2,700 years ago
Poem: by Hesiod
More than 2,500 years ago
Pottery: a tiny oil pot
About 2,400 years ago
Status: the Arezzo bronze
Today
Place: a fiery hill in Turkey

Pegasus sprang to life the moment Perseus defeated Medusa. Why might people tell a story where something beautiful comes out of something terrible?

So the night sky, one bright star tells the Pegasus constellation to its neighbour Andromeda. The legend is old, the picture is new.

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Minotaur

Medusa

Cyclops

Chimera

Pegasus

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This page is blank on purpose: it is the back of the cover.

Minotaur

Say it **MIN-oh-tor**

Ancient Greek Μινώταυρος

The bull-headed beast in the Labyrinth,
a giant maze on Crete in Ancient Greece.



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Its real name was Asterion, meaning 'starry one'.

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'Minotaur' means 'bull of Minos'

Ancient writers gave the Minotaur a bull's head and a man's body. Greek pots show it too. This picture brings it to life.



Danger



Magic



Power



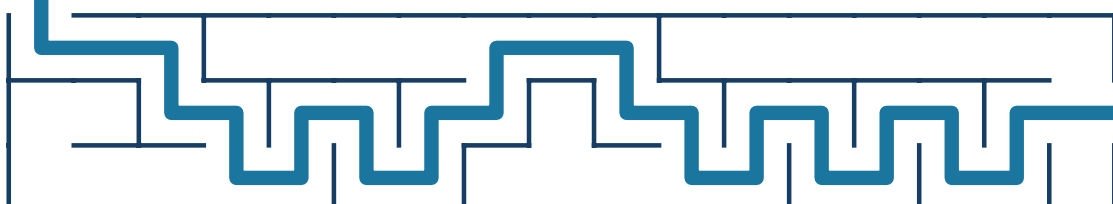
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Medusa

Say it **meh-DOO-sah**

Ancient Greek Μέδουσα

A Gorgon with snakes instead of hair,
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A shiny shield kept Perseus safe. He held it up like a mirror, so he never met her eyes.

Her son Pegasus sprang from her neck the moment Perseus defeated her.

Where it comes from:

About 2,600 years ago

Carving: the Corfu Gorgon

More than 2,500 years ago

Pottery: a Gorgon cup

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Retelling: Roman poet Ovid

The oldest pictures show Medusa as a monster. Ovid said she was once beautiful. Which version would you believe, and why?



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'Medusa' means 'guardian'

Greek soldiers painted Gorgon faces like hers on their real battle shields.
This is Ovid's Medusa, not the older monster.



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'Cyclops' means 'round eye'

Homer's giant Polyphemus has a single eye, like the three Cyclopes in Hesiod's poem. Here he is, brought to life.



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Chimera

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In English today, a 'chimera' means a mix of very different things.

Where it comes from:

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Poem: Homer's Iliad

More than 2,600 years ago

Pottery: a tiny oil pot

About 2,400 years ago

Statue: the Arezzo bronze

Today

Place: a fiery hill in Turkey

Gas flames have burned on a Turkish hill for thousands of years. Why might people tell a fire-monster story there?



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'Chimera' means 'she-goat'

Hesiod gave the Chimera three heads: lion, goat and snake. An Etruscan bronze from Arezzo shows the goat's head on its back. This is how we picture it.



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Poem: by Hesiod

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Coins: from Corinth

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Book: Ptolemy's star list

Pegasus sprang to life the moment Perseus defeated Medusa. Why might people tell a story where something beautiful comes out of something terrible?



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'Pegasus' may mean
'of the springs'

In the night sky, one bright star links the Pegasus constellation to its neighbour Andromeda. The legend is old; the picture is new.



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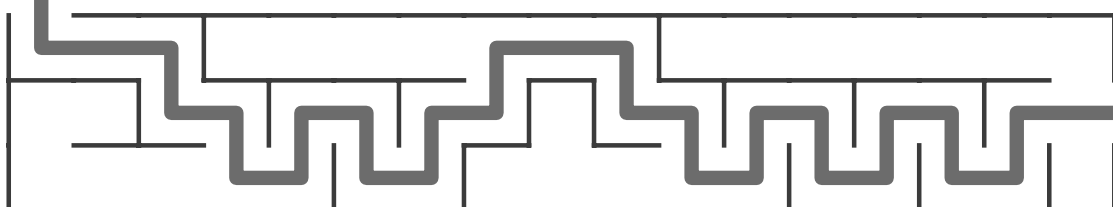
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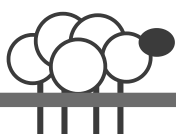
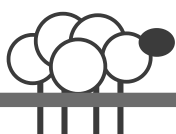
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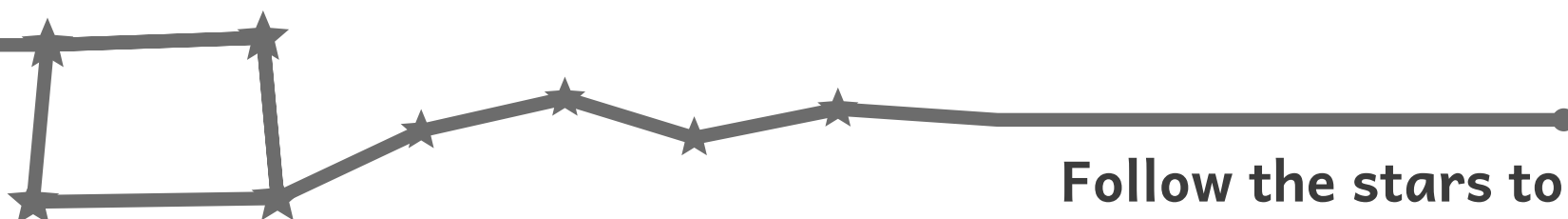
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