

Who? What? Where?

d'Aulaires' *Book of Greek Myths*, pages 96-99, 112-113, 126-127

Select a word from the word bank for each statement. You may use words more than once.

Word Bank

Asclepius	gold	Mount Pelion
Apollo	Hades	rolling a boulder
Centaur	Hera	Sisyphus
Chiron	Hygeia	Tantalus
Cronus	Ixion	thirst and hunger
Fates	Lapiths	Zeus
flaming wheel		

1. I am Ixion's punishment in the Underworld. _____
2. I am Tantalus' punishment in the Underworld. _____
3. I am Sisyphus' punishment in the Underworld. _____
4. Ixion mistook a cloud for me. _____
5. I laid a trap for Ixion. _____
6. I am the father of the centaurs. _____
7. We were upset because Asclepius brought the dead back to life. _____
8. I served my son, Pelops, in a stew to the gods. _____
9. I caused the death of Asclepius. _____
10. I was a king of the Lapith people. _____
11. I am the father of Tantalus. _____
12. I was the first great doctor. _____
13. I am the father of Chiron. _____
14. I am the father of Asclepius. _____
15. I am the daughter of Asclepius. _____
16. I was a king of Corinth. _____

Who? What? Where? (continued)

- 17. Chiron is my mentor. _____
- 18. We are creatures that are half man/half horse. _____
- 19. I am the home of Chiron. _____
- 20. I was upset because Asclepius was depriving me of dead souls. _____
- 21. We are a people of Thessaly. _____
- 22. I am a centaur with different parents than the lawless centaurs. _____
- 23. Asclepius accepted me when he raised people from the dead. _____
- 24. I chained Hades to a post. _____
- 25. My son held the very first Olympic games. _____

TEACHER'S KEY
Who? What? Where?

- 1. flaming wheel
- 2. thirst and hunger
- 3. rolling a boulder
- 4. Hera
- 5. Zeus
- 6. Ixion
- 7. Fates
- 8. Tantalus
- 9. Zeus
- 10. Ixion
- 11. Zeus
- 12. Asclepius
- 13. Cronus
- 14. Apollo
- 15. Hygeia
- 16. Sisyphus
- 17. Asclepius
- 18. Centaurs
- 19. Mount Pelion
- 20. Hades
- 21. Lapiths
- 22. Chiron
- 23. gold
- 24. Sisyphus
- 25. Tantalus

Words Associated with the Muses

A number of words are derived from the Muses and their spheres of influence. As you read the definitions below, choose an English word from the word bank at the bottom of the page. The English words are all related to following Latin/Greek words:

Musa, Musae (L.)	A Muse
ars, artis (L.)	a skill; an art; a profession
technikos (Gk.)	skilled; artistic

- _____ one of the arts of the Muses
- _____ made by human arts, not by nature
- _____ the study of “how to do things”
- _____ a person skilled in the fine arts
- _____ the art of making fireworks
- _____ a place containing reminders of art, history and science
- _____ equipment (specifically guns) needing a skilled operator
- _____ a goddess of the fine arts
- _____ a master builder (originally, a carpenter)
- _____ something that has been made by hand
- _____ a way of using skills
- _____ a small bagpipe; a soft pastoral melody

WORD BANK

Muse	artifact	architect
musette	artificial	pyrotechnics
museum	artillery	technique
music	artist	technology

TEACHER'S KEY

MUSIC	one of the arts of the Muses
ARTIFICIAL	made by human arts, not by nature
TECHNOLOGY	the study of “how to do things”
ARTIST	a person skilled in the fine arts
PYROTECHNICS	the art of making fireworks
MUSEUM	a place containing reminders of art, history and science
ARTILLERY	equipment (specifically guns) needing a skilled operator
MUSE	a goddess of the fine arts
ARCHITECT	a master builder (originally, a carpenter)
ARTIFACT	something that has been made by hand
TECHNIQUE	a way of using skills
MUSETTE	a small bagpipe; a soft pastoral melody

SPECIAL MINI-UNIT: GUIDED TOURS THROUGH THE UNDERWORLD

8TH CENTURY BC TO 17TH CENTURY AD

A visit to the Underworld by a mortal was rare in classical literature because, as the Sibyl, Aeneas' guide, tells him...

“... The downward path to death
Is easy; all the livelong night and day
Dark Pluto's door stands open for a guest.
But O! remounting to the world of light,
This is a task indeed, a strife supreme.”

The Aeneid, Book IV, lines 124-127

Odysseus expresses to Circe his fear of visiting the house of Hades when he learns he must consult with the soul of Teiresias before he can return home.

“Circe, who will be our guide on that journey? No one
has ever yet in a black ship gone all the way to Hades.”

The Odyssey, Book X, lines 501-502

Similarly, the Gate to Hell which stands at the entrance to the Inferno bears the following fearsome inscription:

“Only those elements time cannot wear
Were made before me, and beyond time I stand.
Abandon all hope ye who enter here.”

The Inferno, Canto III, lines 7-9

Milton expresses a like sentiment as Satan describes the plight of the fallen angels:

“... long is the way
And hard, that out of hell leads up to light ...”

Paradise Lost, Book II, lines 432-433

VIEWS OF THE UNDERWORLD

Homer, Vergil, Dante, and Milton

Homer, in Book XI of *The Odyssey*, and Vergil, in Book VI of *The Aeneid*, give us glimpses of the classical perception of the Underworld.* Their descriptions strongly influenced the poets Dante (1265-1321) and Milton (1608-1674).

Dante, in *The Inferno*, an allegorical tale of mankind's search for earthly immortality and life everlasting (Ciardi, xv), made reference to precise geographical locations in much the same manner that Vergil in *The Aeneid* pinpointed the entrance to the Underworld for Aeneas and traced his journey therein. Vergil, personified as Human Reason, served as Dante's guide through the Inferno just as the Sibyl led Aeneas through the Underworld.

Milton, in *Paradise Lost*, another allegorical poem which gave "an account of the whole situation in which man finds himself and how that situation came to be" (Fletcher, 139), presented a vast and vague view of the Underworld beyond geography not unlike the shadowy, miserable dreamworld which Homer described in *The Odyssey*.

Both Dante and Milton drew heavily on classical mythology to create their visions of Hell, but they also employed a multitude of mythological references in the telling of their stories. Knowledge of the myths associated with these references is essential to the enjoyment and understanding of both Dante and Milton.

*Other characters from mythology visit the underworld and return, notably Hercules (Gates, 80-82), Orpheus (d'Aulaires', 102-104), Adonis (Guerber, 86-88), Persephone (d'Aulaires', 58-62), and Psyche (Osborne, 57-65).