

Film Questions - *Jason and the Argonauts*
World History & Geography 1 - Rev 8/15/02

Name _____

Discussion is fine, but please do not copy answers from another student.

1. How does the baby Jason escape being killed by Pelias? (Watch carefully.)

2. How does Jason obtain a crew for the *Argo*?

3. How do we know this myth takes place during the Bronze Age?

4. Why is the blind man tormented by the Harpies?

5. What is Medea's difficult choice?

6. Why do the Children of the Hydra's Teeth always ask for a mop when they drink a glass of milk?

7. Heroes of Greek mythology such as Theseus and Jason and Odysseus go on a journey or quest where they must face and overcome difficult obstacles. Is it common for people in our culture to go on a quest? Who and when? What obstacles do they face?

8. Do we have heroes in our modern culture?
Who are your personal heroes? Why?

9. What do you think? What purpose (or purposes) did heroes serve for the ancient Greeks?
What purpose (or purposes) do heroes serve in our time?

Jason and the Argonauts

Overview of the film

This story is a Greek myth about Jason, a young man who wants to regain what is rightfully his, the kingdom of Thessaly. But, before Jason can become king, he must go on a quest to the end of the earth to find the Golden Fleece. Jason is joined on his quest by Greece's greatest heroes who are called the Argonauts after the name of their ship, the *Argo*. On their journey, the Argonauts must overcome many obstacles. Jason meets the gods, and he finds love.

Cast of Major Characters

(in order of appearance)

Pelias - He conquers the kingdom of Thessaly, killing Jason's father and Jason's sister.

Hera - Queen of gods. Zeus allows her to help Jason five times.

Zeus - King of gods. From his home on Mount Olympus, Zeus enjoys playing with humans as though they are pieces on a chess board.

Jason - Son of the dead king of Thessaly. Jason wants to take the kingdom back from Pelias.

The Golden Fleece - This is the golden-colored hide of a ram, a gift of the gods which holds magical powers. Jason sails to the distant land of Colchis in a quest to obtain the Golden Fleece. (Colchis was an ancient land at the eastern end of the Black Sea.) Jason wants to bring the fleece back to Thessaly where he believes it will earn him the right to the kingdom.

Acastus- Son of Pelias. He sails with Jason to Colchis to act as a spy for his father.

The Argonauts - Jason's brave band of fifty Greek heroes who sail with him on the *Argo* in search of the Golden Fleece.

Hercules - Strongest man on earth. He gets the Argonauts into BIG trouble on an island that is the armory of the gods. (An armory is where armaments or weapons are made or stored.)

Poseidon - God of the sea, a good god to have on your side when things get rocky.

Medea - High priestess who serves Hecate, the three-faced goddess of the underworld. Medea is also the daughter of the king of Colchis. Medea faces a difficult decision.

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