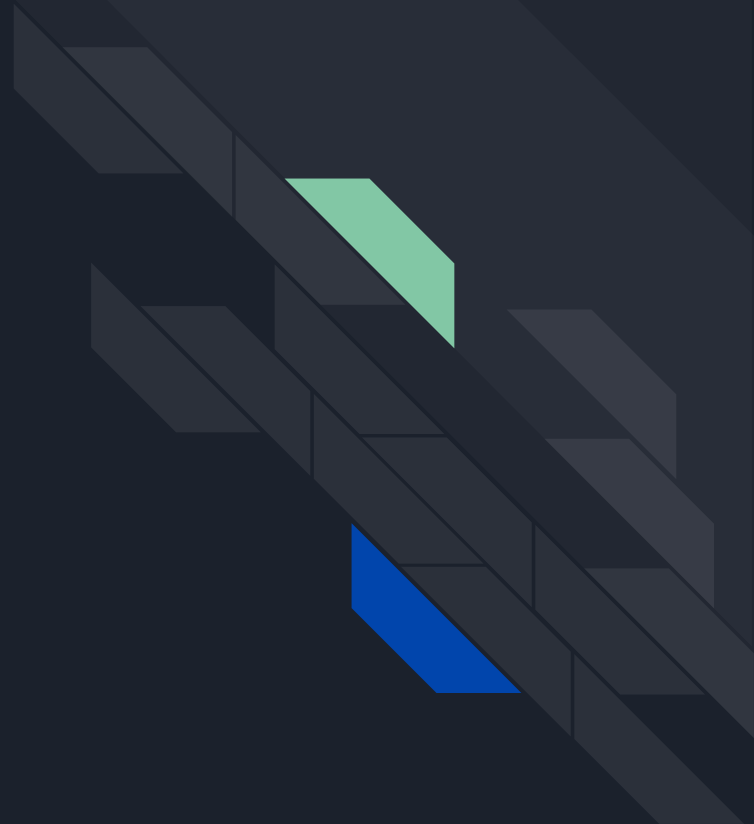




MS Mythology

Greek Myth





Greek Olympian Gods

- Zeus- Chief God, God of the Sky and Thunder
- Hera- Goddess of Marriage and the Family
- Poseidon- God of the Seas
- Athena- Goddess of Wisdom
- Aphrodite- Goddess of Love
- Hephaestus- God of the Forge
- Dionysus- God of Wine and Theater
 - Hestia (Goddess of the Hearth) used to be an Olympian but she gave up her seat to Dionysus
- Apollo- God of Music, Truth and Prophecy
- Demeter- Goddess of the Harvest
- Ares- God of War
- Artemis- Goddess of the Hunt
- Hermes- Messenger God and Trickster God



Origin of the Domains

- After Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades led the rest of the Gods and overthrew their father Kronos, in order to decide who became the God of what, they decided to draw lots
 - Hades got the worst lot and isn't even considered to be an Olympian god
 - Zeus drew the best lot and became the King of the Gods



Zeus

- His father, the titan Cronus, was afraid of being overthrown and killed by his offspring so he ate all of his children
 - But Rhea, Zeus' mother, decided to spare him so instead of giving Cronus baby Zeus she had him eat a stone called the Omphalos Stone instead
- He was raised by the goat Amalthea
- In a war called the Titanomachy, Zeus forced Cronus to vomit up the rest of the Gods and they overthrew the Titans
 - During the war, Zeus released hundred handed Cyclopes called the Hecatonchires who aided him
- He seduced his wife Hera in the form of a cuckoo bird
- A king named Salmoneus forced his subjects to worship him as Zeus
 - He was the brother of Sisyphus
 - In order to imitate Zeus, he built a brass bridge and drove around in a chariot at full speed on it to emulate the sound of thunder
 - This imitation angered Zeus so he killed him with his thunderbolt and sent him to Tartarus to join his brother



Zeus Continued

- Zeus, along with Hermes, went down to Earth pretending to be mortals and asked for a place to sleep
 - Everyone in the town they went to rejected them except for an old couple named Baucis and Philemon
 - Baucis and Philemon were both poor, but they gave their food and wine to the gods generously
 - As a reward for their hospitality, Zeus told them to climb a nearby mountain so they would survive when Zeus destroyed the rest of the town with a flood for its wickedness
 - Zeus turned their old house into a temple and made Baucis and Philemon its guardians
 - Upon the couple's death, Zeus turned them into two intertwining trees



Poseidon

- His wife is Amphitrite
 - Less vengeful than Hera regarding his affairs
- Fell in love with a woman named Caenis
 - He granted her a wish and she wanted to become a guy
 - Poseidon granted her wish and also gave her impenetrable skin
 - He changed his name to Caeneus
- He and Demeter procreated while they were both transformed into horses
 - This resulted in the births of Despoina and Arion
- Procreated with Medusa in Athena's temple
 - Angered Athena who turned Medusa into a monster
- Competed with Athena to become the patron of Athens
 - He offered them a salt spring while she offered them an olive tree
 - They chose Athena, hence the name Athens
- Father of the cyclops Polyphemus from the Odyssey
- Caused King Minos' wife Pasiphae to become attracted to the Cretan bull for failing to sacrifice it to him, they later had the Minotaur together



Hades

- Kidnapped his wife Persephone
 - When the Gods tried to force him to give her back, he tricked her into eating pomegranate seeds from the underworld so she would be forced to spend part of the year with him
- Owner of the three-headed dog Cerberus
 - Allowed Heracles to temporarily take it away for one of his labors
- Has a helmet that turns him invisible when he wears it
- The nymph Minthe attempted to seduce him, but Persephone turned her into the garden mint
- Orpheus visited him to try and rescue his wife from the underworld
 - He let Orpheus do it so long as neither he nor his wife looked back
 - His wife ended up looking back and wasn't able to leave



Hera

- Got into an argument with Zeus over whether men or women enjoy sex more
 - They turned the seer Tiresias into a hermaphrodite so he could give the verdict
 - He sided with Zeus and said that women enjoy it more, so Hera blinded him
- She gave her favor to the hero Jason and helped the argonauts multiple times on their quest
- At her wedding with Zeus, Gaia gave her a tree with golden apples
- Tricked Semele, one of Zeus' lovers, into asking to see Zeus' true form to prove his divinity
 - She spontaneously combusted and Zeus had to sow her baby Dionysus into his thigh until he was ready to be born
- Told Leto, who was pregnant with Apollo and Artemis by Zeus, that she wasn't allowed to give birth on land, in water, or anywhere under the sun
 - So she gave birth on the flying island of Delos
- Tricked Artemis into killing Zeus' lover Callisto
 - Became the Constellation Ursa Major



Athena

- Her mother was the titaness Metis
 - Her father, Zeus, received a prophecy that his second child with Metis would be so powerful that he would overthrow Zeus
 - Zeus got terrified so he tricked the pregnant Metis into becoming a fly and then swallowed her
 - 9 months later Zeus was having terrible headaches so he had Hephaestus crack open his skull and Athena sprung out, fully grown and wearing armor
- Hephaestus tried to rape her
 - She was able to stop him
 - During their struggle he accidentally impregnated Gaia and created the child Erichthonius who later became a king of Athens
- She invented the flute
 - But she threw it away because she thought she looked ugly playing it
- Lost a weaving contest with Arachne
 - She was a sore loser and turned Arachne into a spider
- She's the patron goddess of heroes
 - Lots of stories feature her helping heroes by giving them gifts or advice



Apollo

- Father of the God of healing, Asclepius with Coronis
 - After his white raven told him that Coronis was cheating on him, Apollo turned the raven black and had Artemis kill Coronis and Hermes cut out Asclepius
 - Asclepius was killed by Zeus for resurrecting Hippolytus from the dead
 - Apollo attempted to get revenge for him by killing the Cyclopes that had forged Zeus' bolt
 - This attempt caused Apollo to be sentenced to a year of labor under King Admetus
- His most famous lover was Hyacinthus
 - The West Wind, Zephyrus, got jealous of Apollo because he loved Hyacinthus as well, so he blew a discus that Apollo threw and had it cut off Hyacinthus' head
- In the Iliad, after the Greeks kidnapped the daughter of Apollo's priest Chryses, Apollo sent down plague arrows into the Greek camp that ravaged them until they gave back Chryses' daughter
- Teamed up with Artemis to kill Niobe's 14 children
 - Niobe boasted that she was better than Leto because she gave birth to 14 children while Leto only gave birth to two
- He killed the dragon Python that lived in Delphi and established his oracle there



Hermes

- His father is Zeus and his mother is Maia
- On the day of his birth he escaped his mother and stole the cattle of Apollo
 - As repayment he created the first lyre and gave it to Apollo
- Killed the hundred-eyed giant Argus Panoptes on the orders of Zeus
 - Hera had ordered Argus to watch Zeus' lover Io
 - In revenge Hera sent a gadfly to sting Io continuously forcing her to wander the world without rest
 - She also put Argus' hundred eyes onto her symbol, the peacock
- He has the gift of perfect memory
- Zeus forced him to protect the infant Dionysus
 - Origin of the famous Praxiteles sculpture Hermes and the Infant Dionysus
- His symbol is the caduceus
 - Winged magic wand surrounded by two intertwined snakes
- In the Iliad he protects Priam when he goes to retrieve the dead body of his son Hector
- He rescued Ares from a bronze jar after he was trapped by the giants Otus and Ephialtes
- In the Odyssey he brings Odysseus the herb moly to resist Circe's magic
 - He was Odysseus' great-grandfather



Artemis

- Older twin sister of Apollo
- In some stories she was born on Mount Cynthus and only Apollo was born on Delos
- Released the Calydonian Boar to terrorize the land of King Oeneus
 - King Oeneus failed to make the proper sacrifices
 - Killing it was the second quest of the Argonauts
 - Atalanta got the first strike on it
- The female warrior Camilla of the Volsci was promised to be her servant as a virgin warrior by her father King Metabus
 - She follows her Roman form Diana and appears in the Aeneid
- Chione, not the goddess who was the daughter of Boreas, had children with both Hermes and Apollo and claimed she was more beautiful than Artemis
 - Artemis shot an arrow through her tongue and killed her

Norse Myth





Norse Basics

- There are two groups of Gods in Norse mythology
 - The Aesir are the more famous of the two groups, they include Odin and Thor, they live in Asgard
 - The Aesir are more warlike
 - The Vanir are the other group, they are led by Njord and also include Freyr and Freyja, they live in Vanaheim
 - The Vanir are more centered around magic and nature
 - They fought a long and destructive war referred to as just the Aesir-Vanir War
 - When they made peace they all spit into a cauldren, and the spit became the wise god Kvasir
- In Norse myth there's a World Tree called Yggdrasil
 - A squirrel named Ratatosk lives on it
 - The roots of Yggdrasil extend towards three wells
 - One is the home of the Norns (Norse version of the fates)
 - Another is where the decapitated head of the god Mimir lives
 - The dragon Nidhogg gnaws at the roots of Yggdrasil
 - 4 stags live on Yggdrasil as well



Ragnarok

- The end of the world is called Ragnarok
 - It's the Twilight of the Gods
- At the start of Ragnarok Heimdallr blows on the Gjallarhorn
- All of the gods and giants are supposed to die during Ragnarok
 - Baldr is going to be reborn following it and be the sole god
- Two humans, Lif and Lifthrasir, will survive it and repopulate the Nine Realms
- Most famous fights:
 - Odin and Fenrir
 - Thor and Jormungandr
 - Heimdallr and Loki
 - Freyr and Surtr



Death of Baldr

- Baldr and his mother Frigg both had prophetic dreams of his death
- Frigg tried to save Baldr by going through the nine realms and making every single object swear an oath to never harm Baldr
 - Except for mistletoe because it was too harmless to even make the oath
- The Aesir, believing Baldr to be unkillable took turns throwing things at Baldr for fun
 - Loki made a spear out of mistletoe and gave it to Baldr's blind brother Hodr to throw at him
- After Baldr died from the mistletoe Odin had the child Vali with the giantess Rindr
 - He grew up in a single day and killed Hodr as revenge
- At the behest of Frigg, the goddess Hel agreed to return Baldr from the dead so long as everything, living and dead, wept for him
 - Everyone wept save for the giantess Thokk who was actually Loki in disguise



Thor's Wedding (Sort of)

- A giant named Thrym stole Thor's hammer, Mjolnir
- Thrym claimed he was willing to give it back so long as the goddess Freyja was given to him as a bride
- Freyja, obviously, wasn't willing to marry Thrym
- So, Heimdallr came up with the brilliant plan of having Thor dress up as Freyja and pretend to marry Thrym so he could take back his hammer
- Loki dresses up as his maidservant and the two of them go to Thrym
- The plan works somehow, and when Thor retrieves Mjolnir he kills Thrym



The Walls of Asgard

- After the war between the Aesir and the Vanir, the Aesir hired a giant to help them repair their walls
- He asked for the sun, the moon, and Freyja as his wife for his payment
- Since the gods weren't willing to pay that price, they had Loki distract the giant by turning into a horse and seducing the giant's horse so he couldn't finish on time and receive his payment
 - Loki ends up giving birth to the nine-legged horse Sleipnir
- The giant gets angry and starts to threaten the gods until Thor shows up and kills him



Thor and Hymir

- Thor is feasting at Hymir's house, he eats so much that he and Hymir have to go fishing to get more food
 - Hymir is the father of the god Tyr
- While they are out Thor uses the head of Hymir's best ox as bait and catches Jormungandr, the World Serpent, who nearly causes the end up of the world
- Hymir ends up cutting the line and letting the serpent swim away before Thor reels it in and causes an apocalypse



Seal Fight

- Freyja has a famous necklace called Brisingamen that was forged by dwarves
- In one story Loki steals the necklace
- Freyja enlists the help of Heimdallr to track it down
- Heimdallr ends up finding out the thief was Loki who was hiding in the form of a seal
- Heimdallr also turns into a seal and they fight it out
- After a lengthy fight, Heimdallr wins and gives Brisingamen back to Freyja

Egyptian Myth





Egyptian Underworld

- The underworld is known as Duat
 - It's ruled over by Osiris
 - It's not the full extent of the afterlife
 - Souls were judged in Duat but they didn't permanently reside there
- Souls were judged on whether or not they were worthy of entering the realm of the dead by weighing the dead person's heart against Ma'at (truth) represented by an ostrich feather
 - Souls heavier than a feather were devoured by Ammit, a part lion, part hippo, part crocodile beast
- In the Duat, Ra travels in his sun barge from west to east every night and battles the chaos serpent Apophis
 - Apophis is the mortal enemy of Ma'at, order



Ra and Sekhmet

- Sekhmet is a lioness who is the goddess of healing and a warrior goddess
 - She is the daughter of Ra
- Ra, who was the chief Egyptian deity, had become angry because humanity was not following his laws and preserving Ma'at
 - So he decided to punish them by sending down Sekhmet to rampage across Earth
- Sekhmet caused so much death that Ra repented and decided to call her off
 - However, Sekhmet was in a blood lust and didn't listen to his commands
- In order to end Sekhmet's blood lust, Ra poured 7,000 jugs of beer mixed with pomegranate juice in her path
 - Sekhmet drank all of the "blood" that Ra had poured and got so drunk that she slept for three days and when she woke her blood lust had ended



Death of Osiris

- Osiris was originally said to be an ancient King of Egypt
 - He ruled by the principles of Order/Ma'at
- His brother Set, who represents chaos in this story, trapped him in a coffin that Isis later found embedded in the trunk of a tamarisk tree that was holding up the roof of a palace in Byblos
- After Osiris was released from the coffin, Set cut him into fourteen pieces and scattered them into the Nile
- After Isis recovered 13 of the 14 pieces, she turned Osiris into the first mummy
 - The piece never recovered was Osiris' genitalia which were eaten by an oxyrhynchus fish called a medjed



Horus and Set

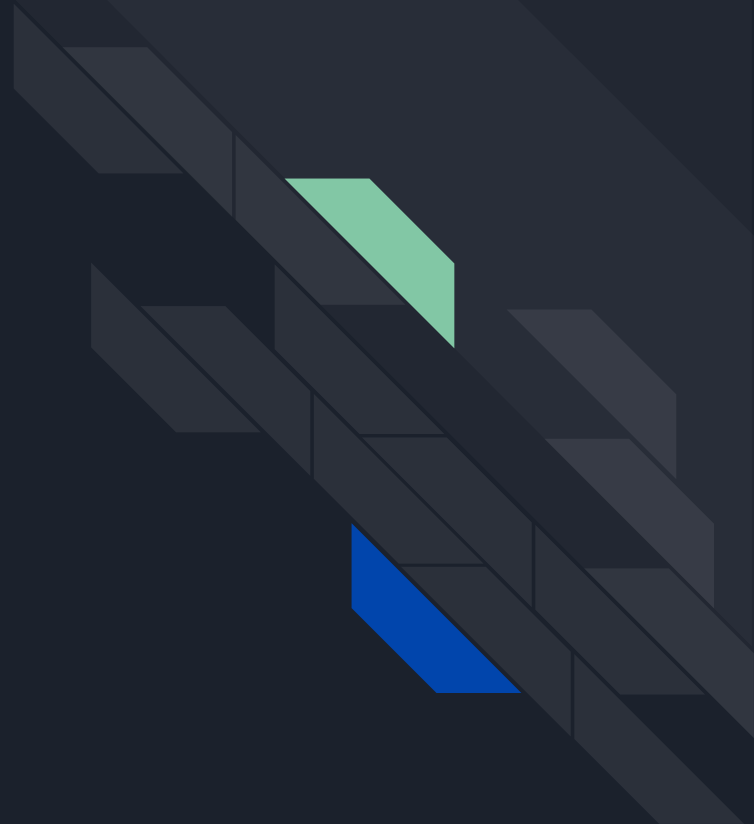
- Horus was told by his mother Isis to protect Egypt from the god Set
 - Their conflicts raged on for 80 years
- One competition they had was to race boats that they made out of stone
 - Horus cheated and made a wooden boat painted to look like stone
 - Set made an actual boat of stone that sunk, making Horus the winner
- In another competition, they both turned into hippopotami and fought it out
 - Isis attempted to help Horus win the fight by throwing a harpoon at Set, but she missed and hit Horus
- Set gouged out Horus' eye in one of their fights
 - It was restored by the baboon god Thoth
 - His restored eye is personified as the goddess Wadjet and it represents the moon



Isis and Ra

- Isis wanted to get rid of Ra and give power to her son Horus
- She stealthily collected some of his saliva and used it to make a snake out of clay
 - She then poisoned Ra with that very snake
- After Ra was poisoned with his own essence, the only way for Isis to heal him was for Ra to tell her his true name
 - In Egyptian myth, knowing someone's "true name" is akin to having complete control over them
- After Ra was healed, he was afraid because Isis could now easily scheme against him because she knew his true name

Greek Heroes





Theseus

- His father was King Aegeus of Athens
 - He grew up far away from Athens with his mother Princess Aethra of Troezen
 - Before Aegeus left he placed his sandals and his sword under a boulder, and after Theseus was able to move the boulder he would be able to go to Athens and seek out his father
- When he grew up and set out to find his father, he faced 6 Labors on his way to Athens
 - The first was a son of Hephaestus named Periphetes who clubbed people to death with his bronze club, Theseus tricked him into giving Theseus his club and killed him with it
 - The second was a man named Sinis who asked travelers to help him bend trees to the ground, he then attached those people to the bent trees and let go, letting the momentum of the trees kill them
 - Theseus instead attached Sinis to the trees and after killing him decided to chase down his daughter and forced her to have a child with him
 - The third was a wild pig called the Crommyonian Sow who was the pet of a witch named Phaea, Theseus killed them both



Theseus Continued

- The fourth of Theseus' trials was a thief named Sciron who would rob people on the cliffside and then force them to wash his feet, when they bent down to wash them he would kick them off of the cliff to their death
 - Theseus kicked him off the cliff upon their meeting
- The fifth was a King of Eleusis named Cercyon who challenged travellers to wrestling matches where the loser would be killed
 - Theseus defeated him and became the new King of Eleusis
- The final trial he faced was Procrustes who would offer people a place to sleep, but when they didn't fit perfectly to the bed he offered would forcibly stretch or cut off their various limbs to make them fit perfectly
 - Theseus ended up fitting him to his own bed



Theseus Final

- After he got to Athens he heard of how Athens was being forced to send 14 people over as sacrifices to the Minotaur every 9 years
 - He, being the hero, volunteered to take one of the places and put a stop to it
 - His ship departed with black sails and he promised Aegeus that if he lived he would return with white sails instead
 - When he got there a princess named Ariadne fell in love with him and promised to help him navigate the Labyrinth (the maze built by Daedalus where the Minotaur lived) with a ball of string in exchange for his promise that they would marry
 - After he killed the Minotaur and left the Labyrinth he planned on making good on his promise with Ariadne, until Athena told him to leave her behind on the island of Naxos and he obeyed
 - Ariadne later married the god Dionysus
 - Being told to abandon Ariadne caused him to be so distressed that he forgot to exchange his black sails for white ones, and Aegeus thinking his son had died, committed suicide by jumping off of a cliff
 - He lends his name to the sea he jumped into, the Aegean Sea



Perseus

- His grandfather, King Acrisius of Argos, disappointed at only having a daughter, consulted an oracle who told him that his daughter, Danae, would give birth to a son that would one day kill him
- And so Acrisius decided to lock Danae up in a tower for the entirety of her life so that she could never give birth to a son
- Zeus had other plans and came down to Danae in the form of a golden shower and impregnated her
- Acrisius was too afraid of provoking the Gods by directly killing his daughter, so he cast Danae and her newborn child, Perseus, into the sea inside of a wooden chest
- They were rescued by the fisherman Dictys who was the brother of the King of Seriphos named Polydectes who took them into his court
- Polydectes wanted to marry Danae but Perseus kept getting in the way, so in an effort to get him killed, Polydectes sent him to kill and bring back the head of the Gorgon Medusa
 - A once beautiful woman who after being raped by Poseidon in Athena's temple was turned into a hideous monster with snakes for hair who turned people stone with a look



Perseus and Medusa

- The Gods left gifts for Perseus to help complete the quest with the Hesperides (the nymphs who tended Hera's orchard)
 - Athena had Perseus seek out the Graeae sisters to find their location
 - The Graeae were three perpetually old women that shared a single eye, Perseus stole their one eye and held it ransom in exchange for the information he wanted
 - From the Hesperides, Perseus received a pouch from Hermes that could hold Medusa's head, an adamantine sword from Zeus, Hades' helm of darkness that granted invisibility to the wearer, winged sandals from Hermes, and a polished shield from Athena so he could look at Medusa without being turned to stone
- He approached Medusa while she was sleeping, and using Athena's shield to look at her safely he chopped off her head
 - From her decapitated neck Pegasus and Chrysaor were born
 - Chrysaor later became the father of the monster Geryon who Heracles killed in one of his labors
 - Medusa's blood formed the coral reefs



Perseus Final

- On his way back to Danae and Polydectes, he used Medusa's head to turn King Atlas of Mauretania into stone for refusing to show him hospitality
- He also stopped in Ethiopia and rescued Andromeda who was tied naked to a rock by her family and offered to the sea serpent Cetus
 - Her mother had bragged that she was equal in beauty to the Nereids and angered Poseidon who wanted her death
 - Perseus claimed her hand in marriage after rescuing her
- Andromeda had already been promised in marriage to Phineus, who arrived at their wedding and started a fight
 - Perseus used Medusa's head again and turned him to stone
- When Perseus finally returned to Seriphos, he found that his mother had to take refuge from the violent sexual advances of Polydectes
 - Perseus turned Polydectes to stone and installed his brother, the fisherman Dictys, as King of Seriphos
- Perseus then gave Medusa's head to Athena who placed it on her shield, the Aegis
- He also later accidentally fulfilled the prophecy and killed Acrisius with a discus



Labors of Heracles

1. The Nemean Lion
 - a. Impenetrable hide, Heracles wrestled it and strangled it to death
 - b. Wore its hide as armor
2. The Lernean Hydra
 - a. Every head cut off regrew as two, Heracles had his nephew Iolaus burn the neck stumps to cauterize the wound
 - b. Hera sent down a crab to impede Heracles, when he killed it the crab became the constellation Cancer
3. The Golden Hind of Artemis
 - a. Artemis got mad when Heracles killed it but eventually forgave him after hearing the whole situation
4. The Erymanthian Boar
 - a. When Heracles brought it back to King Eurystheus (the one giving him the labors) it caused him to hide in a bronze jar
5. The Stables of King Augeas
 - a. Diverted the Alpheus river to clean the stables, they were inhabited by sacred horses that pooped a lot



Labors of Heracles Continued

6. The Stymphalian Birds

- a. Athena gifted him noisemakers to scare them so they were easier to shoot down

7. The Cretan Bull

- a. Ended up escaping and became the Marathonian Bull that Theseus ended up killing

8. The Mares of Diomedes

- a. Diomedes, a different Diomedes than the famous Trojan war hero, had flesh eating horses, Heracles killed him and stole the horses

9. The Girdle of Hippolyta

- a. Hippolyta was willing to give him the belt peacefully, but Hera wanted him to die so she caused the Amazons to attack and Hippolyta ended up dying in the fighting

10. The Cattle of Geryon

- a. Geryon is the aforementioned son of Chrysaor, his cattle was guarded by the two-headed hound Orthus, Heracles clubbed Orthus to death and killed Geryon with arrows



Labors of Heracles Final

11. Apples of the Hesperides

- a. He was originally only supposed to do 10, but Eurystheus demanded 2 more labors he had killed the Hydra with Iolaus' help and had used a river to clean the Augean stables
- b. After he met Atlas, Atlas agreed to get Heracles the apples if while he was getting them Heracles held up the sky in his place
- c. Atlas didn't want to hold up the sky anymore and claimed he would give them to Eurystheus himself while planning on leaving Heracles there to hold up the sky for eternity
- d. Heracles tricked him into taking the burden back by asking him to hold it for a moment while he put soft padding on his shoulders to make the sky easier to hold, when Atlas agreed, Heracles ran off with the apples and left him

12. Cerberus

- a. Hades agreed to let him take Cerberus with him if he could overpower the dog with brute strength, Heracles was able to and finished the last of his labors