



# Classroom Connections

For teachers and students grades K - 5

# HOME SWEET HOMER

## Teacher Resources



### In the Classroom

*Home Sweet Homer* is presented in support of Virginia Standards of Learning in History and Social Science: 3.1, and in English: K.1, K.2, K.3, K.8, 1.1, 1.9, 1.10, 1.11, 2.5, 2.7, 2.8, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6.

*Activities provided support curriculum in grades K-5*



### At the Library

*Ancient Greece*, by Judith Simpson. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Books, 1997.

*Greek Myths*, by Jacqueline Morley. New York: P. Bedrick Books, 1998.

*The Ancient Greek Olympics*, by Richard Woff. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

*Trojan Horse: The World's Greatest Adventure*, by David Clement-Davies. New York: DK Publishers, 1999.

Look in J913's - J938's at the library for more books about Ancient Greek Civilization.



### On the Web

[www.TheatreIV.org/sidekicks.html](http://www.TheatreIV.org/sidekicks.html)

*Activities provided are aligned with the Virginia Standards of Learning. Information for teachers and parents, including links to other great web sites.*



- The Ancient Greeks had an advanced **civilization** located on the Mediterranean Sea in southeastern Europe.
- A **civilization** is a group of people who come together to share their culture, to develop and use written language, to make advances in the arts and sciences, and to form a government.
- Greece was the birthplace of **democracy** (government by the people).
- The Greeks told stories about the many Gods they worshiped. These stories are known as **myths**.
- A **myth** is an ancient story with creatures and characters who have supernatural powers.



## Key Information

### THE GEOGRAPHY OF GREECE

**Area:** 131,940 sq km (slightly smaller than Alabama)

**Coastline:** 13,676 km

**Climate:** temperate; mild, wet winters; hot, dry summers

**Terrain:** mostly mountains with ranges extending into the sea as peninsulas or chains of islands

**Land Use:**

arable land: 19%

crops: 8%

pastures: 41%

forests and woodland: 20%

other: 12% (1993 est.)

**Natural Hazards:** severe earthquakes

Greece is located on a **peninsula**, and has an **archipelago** of about 2,000 islands.

*Courtesy of the CIA at [www.odci.gov/cia/publications/fact-book/index.html](http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/fact-book/index.html)*

### PARTS OF A MAP:

When reading a map, it is handy to know what to look for. The parts of a map include the legend, compass rose, scale of miles, grid lines, and a title.

**compass rose** shows the directions North, South, East, and West on a map.

**grid lines** mark off lines of latitude and longitude on a map.

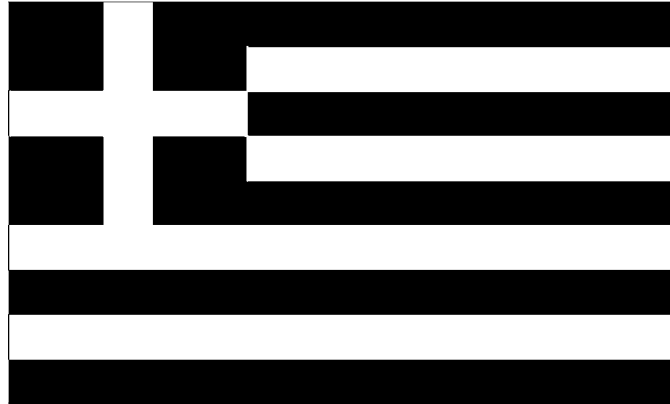
**legend** (also called a key) shows what symbols on a map stand for.

**scale of miles** shows how many inches or centimeters on a map equal a mile or kilometer on earth.

**title** gives the name of the place pictured and may tell the type of map (topographic, political, etc.)

# READING RESOURCES:

### GREEK FLAG:



### MAP OF GREECE:



### Take it one Step Further

To find distances between any two cities in the world, check out this web site: [www.indo.com/distance/](http://www.indo.com/distance/).

# USING RESOURCES: READING ABOUT GEOGRAPHY

---

1. On the resource sheet, which of the following are you asked to read?

- a) a map
- b) definitions
- c) a chart
- d) all of these

2. Based on how it is used, the term **terrain** refers to:

- a) water
- b) land
- c) weather
- d) maps

3. What map features listed are not included on this map?

---

4. How can you tell what city is the capital of Greece?

---

5. Create a legend, or key, for this map.

6. According to the chart, the country of Greece is about the same size as what American state?

---

7. If you lived in Greece, what natural danger would you have to worry about?

---

8. According to the map, Greece is surrounded by what bodies of water? (Hint: There are four.)

---



## Easy Activity

Color the land on the map green, and the water on the map blue. Put a red star where the city of Athens is located.



## Challenge Activity

Using a world map or a globe (with a scale of miles) and a string, calculate the distance between your home town or city and Athens, Greece.



## Think about it

Draw a line to match each term with the proper definition.

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| temperate   | <input type="checkbox"/> Land that is fit for farming.                    |
| arable      | <input type="checkbox"/> Land that is surrounded by water on three sides. |
| peninsula   | <input type="checkbox"/> Land, ground.                                    |
| archipelago | <input type="checkbox"/> Warm, moderate weather.                          |
| terrain     | <input type="checkbox"/> A large group of islands.                        |

# THESEUS AND THE MINOTAUR:

## A CHALLENGE FOR YOU



### Definitions

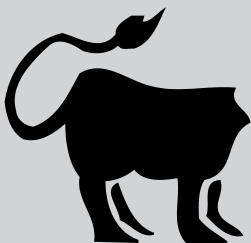
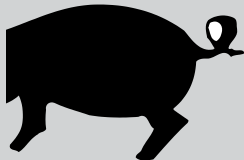
The story of Theseus and the Minotaur is a **myth**.

A **myth** is an ancient story with creatures and characters who have supernatural powers. Greek myths helped form the idea of the Ancient Greek hero.





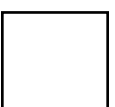


### You Can Do It

Draw a line to match the correct head and body to create a Minotaur.



Put these events from *Theseus and the Minotaur* in order. Then, add illustrations for each scene. When you're finished, cut out the pages and make a book.

<p>THESEUS AND THE MINOTAUR</p>	
<p>By:</p>	<p>Theseus finds the Minotaur.</p>
	
<p>Theseus rescues Ariadne.</p>	<p>Theseus enters the maze.</p>
	
<p>Theseus finds his way out of the maze.</p>	

# HEROES: THEN AND NOW



## Easy Activity

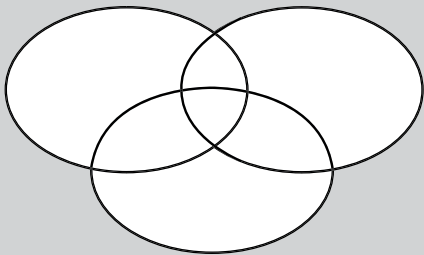
Draw lines to match each hero with the character trait that best describes him or her. Can you think of one more trait for each hero?

HERO	TRAIT
fireman	loving
Spiderman	athletic
basketball player	brave
parent	super-human



## Challenge Activity

Compare Melankomas, Theseus, and your favorite hero. What do they have in common? How are they different?



## Fun Facts

We know nothing about the poet Homer except for his name. Some believe that he was blind, and seven different cities claim to be his birthplace. What we do know about Homer is that he created two epic poems, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*.

Heroes were important to the Ancient Greeks. They celebrated athletic heroes at the Olympic games; and they told tales of brave, heroic warriors in their myths.

The chart below includes two heroes from the play, *Home Sweet Homer*.

What distinguishing qualities or character traits did each hero have? Who are your heroes? What traits do we look for in a hero today? Complete the chart.

Ancient Greece	Modern-Day America
Theseus	Hero #1: _____
Melankomas	Hero #2: _____



# THEATRE IV

114 W. Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23220  
800 - 235 - 8687

## Theatre IV Presents...

### *Home Sweet Homer*

written by Susan Sanford

## Special Thanks...

Theatre IV would like to thank  
its major supports:

- The Virginia  
Business-Education Partnership
- The National Endowment for the Arts
- the Virginia Commission for the Arts

## Theatre IV...

Bruce Miller

*Artistic Director*

Philip J. Whiteway

*Managing Director*

Tammy Shackelford

*Education Director*

Written by Heather Widener, MAT

Designed by Kate Carpenter

**Classroom Connections** study guide and the text contained herein are the property of Theatre IV. Photocopying of the study guide is permitted. Any other use of the contents must be accompanied by the phrase: "Text used with permission from Theatre IV - Richmond, VA." Copyright, Theatre Summer 2002.

# More Teacher Resources...

*Additional Core Curriculum Activities*

## Mathematics

- Gr.  
K-1 Give the students cut outs of rectangles, squares, circles, and triangles. Ask them to build their very own Trojan horse.
- Gr.  
2-3 Suppose the Olympics had 10 events. Each event has a Gold, Silver, and Bronze medalist. How many total medals do the Olympic judges give out? Draw a picture or use objects to help you figure this out.
- Gr.  
4-5 If an Olympic weightlifter can lift 500 lbs., how many kilograms can he lift? Write a paragraph explaining how you arrived at your answer.
- Gr.  
K-1 Using a 9x12 piece of construction paper, draw your version of a Minotaur. Include bull horns, ears, and nostrils! Using the Minotaur as a nonstandard measurement, measure how many Minotaurs tall you are. Extension: create a class pictograph of the results.

## Science

- Gr.  
2 Read a sampling of Greek myths to the students. Point out that the Greeks attributed acts of nature, such as storms and lightning, to their many Gods. Compare Ancient Greek beliefs about weather with what we know about weather today.
- Gr.  
3-4 Ask students to research the events held in the Olympics of Ancient Greece. What simple machines were used as part of Olympic competition? What simple machines are used today as part of Olympic competition?
- Gr.  
5 Study the geology of Greece. What unique rock types and landforms are found there? Extension: create a 3-D "salt map" showing Greece's topography.