Name _____

THE 12 LABORS OF HERCULES

Heracles (the Romans called him Hercules) was a son of Zeus and the strongest Greek hero. He did the labors to make up for a terrible wrong he did when Hera sent a madness on him. The oracle at Delphi sent him to serve King Eurystheus, who chose the impossible tasks.

1



The Nemean Lion

He wrestled a lion whose skin no weapon could cut, choked it with his bare hands and wore its skin as armor.

2



The Lernaean Hydra

Two heads grew back for every head he cut off this many-headed water snake, so his nephew Iolaus burned each neck.

3



The Ceryneian Hind

He chased a deer with golden horns, sacred to the goddess Artemis, for a whole year and caught it alive.

4



The Erymanthian Boar

He chased a huge wild boar into deep snow, trapped it and carried it back alive to King Eurystheus.

5



The Augean Stables

He cleaned King Augeas's stables, full of years of cattle dung, in one day by turning two rivers through them.

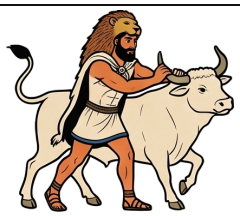
6



The Stymphalian Birds

He scared a huge flock of birds out of a marsh with a bronze rattle, then shot them with his arrows.

7



The Cretan Bull

He sailed to the island of Crete, caught a wild bull and brought it back to King Eurystheus.

8



The Mares of Diomedes

He tamed the wild, man-eating horses of King Diomedes of Thrace and brought them back to Greece.

9



The Belt of Hippolyta

He sailed to the land of the Amazons, a people of women warriors, and brought back the belt of their queen, Hippolyta.

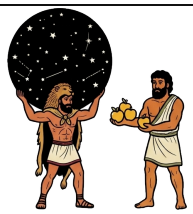
10



The Cattle of Geryon

He traveled to the far west of the world to bring back the red cattle of Geryon, a giant with three bodies.

11



The Apples of the Hesperides

Atlas fetched the golden apples while Heracles held the sky. Heracles asked him to take it back for a moment, then left with the apples.

12



Cerberus

He went down to the underworld, carried up Cerberus, the three-headed dog, without using weapons, then returned him.