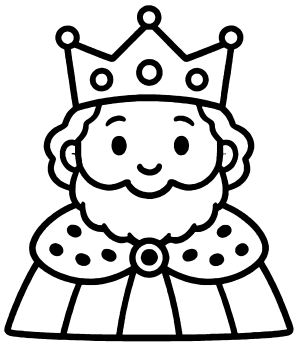
Name _____ Date _____

Greek Myths

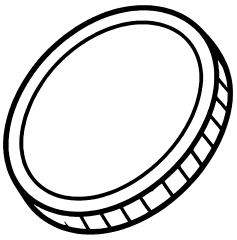
Read the myth. The questions are on the next page.

King Midas and the Golden Touch



This myth was told in ancient Greece and Rome. Long ago, a king named Midas ruled a rich land. One day his servants found an old man wandering lost in the king's rose garden. Instead of sending him away, Midas welcomed the stranger kindly and gave him delicious food and a soft bed for ten days. The old man turned out to be the teacher of Dionysus, the god of wine and growing things.

Dionysus was so grateful that he offered Midas any wish he wanted. Midas did not have to think for long. “Let everything I touch turn to gold,” he said.



The wish came true at once. When Midas touched a twig on the path home, it became a golden twig, and when he picked up a plain gray stone, it gleamed with gold. Laughing with delight, he ran through every room of his enormous palace, turning doors, chairs and marble pillars into gold.

That evening he sat down to a magnificent feast, but when he reached for a piece of warm bread, it turned hard and golden in his hand. He lifted a cup of wine to his lips, and it became liquid gold that he could not drink. The richest king in the world was going to starve.

Midas lifted his shining arms to the sky. “Please take back this gift!” he begged. Dionysus told him to travel to a distant river and wash himself in its water, so Midas plunged into the river, and the golden touch flowed out of him. People said the river's sand sparkled with gold ever after. Midas never wished for gold again.

© 2026 Eggroll Games

Name _____ Date _____

Greek Myths

King Midas and the Golden Touch: look back at the myth to answer.

1. Why did Dionysus offer Midas a wish?

2. At first, how did Midas feel about his wish? Which words show it?

3. Why does the myth call him "the richest king in the world" who "was going to starve"?

4. Today, people say someone "has the Midas touch." What does that mean?

Everything they try turns out well or makes money.

They cannot eat their food.

They like to wear gold.

5. What is a theme of the myth?

Gold is the best thing to own.

Gods always grant wishes.

Wanting too much of something can bring trouble.

© 2026 Eggroll Games

Name _____ Date _____

Greek Myths

Read the myth. The questions are on the next page.

Pandora's Jar



This myth was told in ancient Greece by a poet named Hesiod. In the earliest days, the Greeks said, people lived without sickness or hard work. Then a Titan named Prometheus stole fire from the gods and gave it to people. Zeus, the king of the gods, was furious. He decided that people would pay for the gift.

Zeus ordered the gods to make the first woman. Each god gave her a gift, such as beauty, a clever mind or a lovely voice, so she was named Pandora, which means "all gifts." Then Zeus sent her to live on Earth.

In Pandora's new home stood a great clay jar with a heavy lid. One day Pandora lifted the lid. Out rushed every trouble the world had never known: sickness, sorrow, hard work and many more. They flew out across the land like a swarm of stinging insects.

Pandora slammed the lid back down, but it was too late. Only one thing was still inside, caught under the rim of the jar. It was Hope.

The Greeks told this myth to explain why the world is full of troubles. More than two thousand years later, a writer telling the story called the jar a box, and the name stuck. Today, when someone does something that causes one problem after another, we say they have "opened Pandora's box."

© 2026 Eggroll Games

Name _____ Date _____

Greek Myths

Pandora's Jar: look back at the myth to answer.

1. Why was Zeus angry at the beginning of the myth?

2. Why was she named Pandora?

Each god gave her a gift, and Pandora means “all gifts.”

She opened the jar.

She was the first person on Earth.

3. What does the myth say is still in the jar? Why do you think the Greeks told that part?

4. The town council said that changing the school rules would “open Pandora's box.” What did they mean?

It would be easy to fix later.

It would lead to many new problems.

It would be a nice gift.

5. What does this myth explain? Use details from the text.

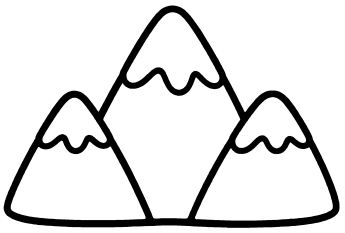
© 2026 Eggroll Games

Name _____ Date _____

Greek Myths

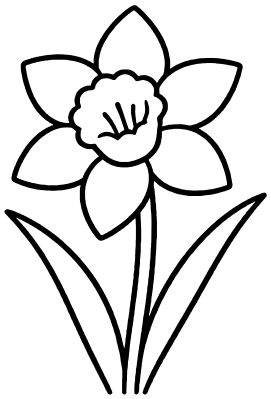
Read the myth. The questions are on the next page.

Echo and Narcissus



This myth was told in ancient Greece and Rome. Echo was a mountain nymph who loved to talk. Once, she chattered on and on to the goddess Hera so that Hera would not notice what Zeus was up to. When Hera found out, she punished Echo. “From now on,” said Hera, “you will only be able to repeat the last words that others say.”

One day Echo saw a young hunter named Narcissus in the forest and loved him at once. But because of Hera's punishment, she could not speak to him first, so she followed him silently and waited for him to say something.



“Is anyone here?” called Narcissus, who had lost his friends. “Here!” answered Echo. “Come to me!” he called. “Come to me!” she answered, and she ran out to meet him. But Narcissus was proud and cold, and he turned her away. Heartbroken, Echo hid in the lonely mountain caves and grew thinner and thinner, until nothing was left of her but her voice, which you can still hear answering in the mountains today.

But Narcissus did not escape punishment for his cruelty. Bending over a still pool to drink, he saw a handsome face looking back at him. It was his own reflection, but he fell in love with it. He could not stop staring at the beautiful stranger in the water, and he stayed beside the pool day after day until he faded away. In his place grew a flower that bends over the water, and the flower is still called the narcissus.

© 2026 Eggroll Games

Name _____ Date _____

Greek Myths

Echo and Narcissus: look back at the myth to answer.

1. Why could Echo only repeat what others said?

2. Describe Narcissus. Use two details from the myth.

3. Which two things in nature does this myth explain?

why pools are still and why forests are dark

how hunters find their way

echoes in the mountains and the narcissus flower

4. Today, when your voice bounces back to you, it is called an echo. Why does that word fit?

5. People who think only about themselves are sometimes called narcissists. How does that word connect to the myth?

© 2026 Eggroll Games

Name _____ Date _____

Where the Words Come From

Read about five more characters from Greek myths.

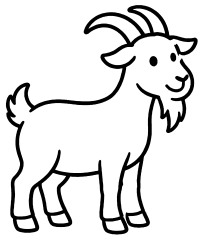
Hercules

Hercules, called Heracles by the Greeks, was the strongest hero of all. To make up for a terrible wrong, he had to perform twelve labors. He cleaned stables that had not been cleaned in thirty years. He captured a fierce three-headed dog. Each labor seemed impossible, yet he finished every one.

Achilles

Achilles was a great warrior. In later tellings of his story, his mother dipped him in a magic river when he was a baby, so that no weapon could hurt him. But she held him by one heel, and that heel stayed dry. In the end, an arrow struck him in the heel, his one weak spot.

Pan

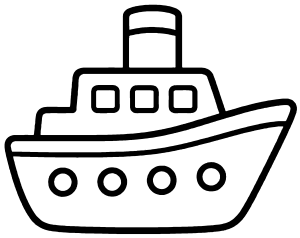


Pan was the god of shepherds and wild places. He had the legs and horns of a goat, and he loved to wander the hills. The Greeks said that when he shouted suddenly in a lonely place, travelers were seized with a wild, unthinking fear and ran.

Tantalus

Tantalus was a king who angered the gods. As his punishment, he stood in a pool of water under branches heavy with fruit. When he bent to drink, the water drained away, and when he reached for the fruit, the wind blew the branches just out of reach.

Odysseus



Odysseus was a clever king who sailed home after a long war. His voyage took ten years. On the way he escaped a one-eyed giant, sailed past monsters and was blown far off course by storms before he finally reached his home again.

© 2026 Eggroll Games

Name _____ Date _____

Words from Myths

Each word comes from a Greek myth. Draw a line to what it means.

Herculean (from Hercules)	●	● a weakness in someone strong
Achilles' heel	●	● needing great strength or effort
panic (from Pan)	●	● a long journey full of adventures
tantalize (from Tantalus)	●	● a sudden, wild fear
odyssey (from Odysseus)	●	● a sound that bounces back
the Midas touch	●	● to tease with something you cannot have
echo (from the nymph Echo)	●	● a knack for making things succeed

© 2026 Eggroll Games

Name _____ Date _____

Words from Myths in Sentences

Use what you know about each myth to work out what the words mean.

1. Cleaning up the whole beach in one day was a Herculean task. The task was

very hard **very quick** **very fun**

2. Our team is fast and strong, but our Achilles' heel is catching the ball. The team

has hurt feet has one weak spot is good at everything

3. The smell of fresh bread tantalized the hungry hikers, but the bakery was closed. How did the hikers feel?

They were full.

They did not like the smell.

They wanted the bread but could not have it.

4. When the fire alarm rang, the teacher said, “Don't panic.” What did she mean?

_____

5. Our trip across the country, with a flat tire and a lost map, turned into an odyssey. Why does odyssey fit?

_____

_____

6. A Titan named Atlas held up the sky in Greek myths. Today a book of maps is called an atlas. Why might it have that name?

_____

_____

© 2026 Eggroll Games

Greek Myths

King Midas and the Golden Touch: look back at the myth to answer.

1. Why did Dionysus offer Midas a wish?

Midas had been kind to his teacher, giving him food and a bed for ten days.

2. At first, how did Midas feel about his wish? Which words show it?

He was thrilled. He ran through his palace "laughing with delight."

3. Why does the myth call him "the richest king in the world" who "was going to starve"?

He had all the gold he wanted, but his food turned to gold, so he could not eat.

4. Today, people say someone "has the Midas touch." What does that mean?

Everything they try turns out well or makes money.

They cannot eat their food.

They like to wear gold.

5. What is a theme of the myth?

Gold is the best thing to own.

Gods always grant wishes.

Wanting too much of something can bring trouble.

© 2026 Eggroll Games

Greek Myths

Pandora's Jar: look back at the myth to answer.

1. Why was Zeus angry at the beginning of the myth?

Prometheus stole fire from the gods and gave it to people.

2. Why was she named Pandora?

Each god gave her a gift, and Pandora means "all gifts."

She opened the jar.

She was the first person on Earth.

3. What does the myth say is still in the jar? Why do you think the Greeks told that part?

Hope. Even with all the world's troubles, people still have hope.

4. The town council said that changing the school rules would "open Pandora's box." What did they mean?

It would be easy to fix later.

It would lead to many new problems.

It would be a nice gift.

5. What does this myth explain? Use details from the text.

It explains why there are troubles in the world: they all flew out when Pandora lifted the lid.

© 2026 Eggroll Games

Greek Myths

Echo and Narcissus: look back at the myth to answer.

1. Why could Echo only repeat what others said?

Hera punished her for talking to keep Hera from noticing what Zeus was doing.

2. Describe Narcissus. Use two details from the myth.

He was proud and cold. He turned Echo away, and he could only love his own reflection.

3. Which two things in nature does this myth explain?

why pools are still and why forests are dark

how hunters find their way

echoes in the mountains and the narcissus flower

4. Today, when your voice bounces back to you, it is called an echo. Why does that word fit?

In the myth, Echo can only repeat the last words she hears, just as a sound bounces back.

5. People who think only about themselves are sometimes called narcissists. How does that word connect to the myth?

Narcissus cared only about himself and loved his own reflection.

© 2026 Eggroll Games

Words from Myths

Each word comes from a Greek myth. Draw a line to what it means.

Herculean (from Hercules)

Achilles' heel

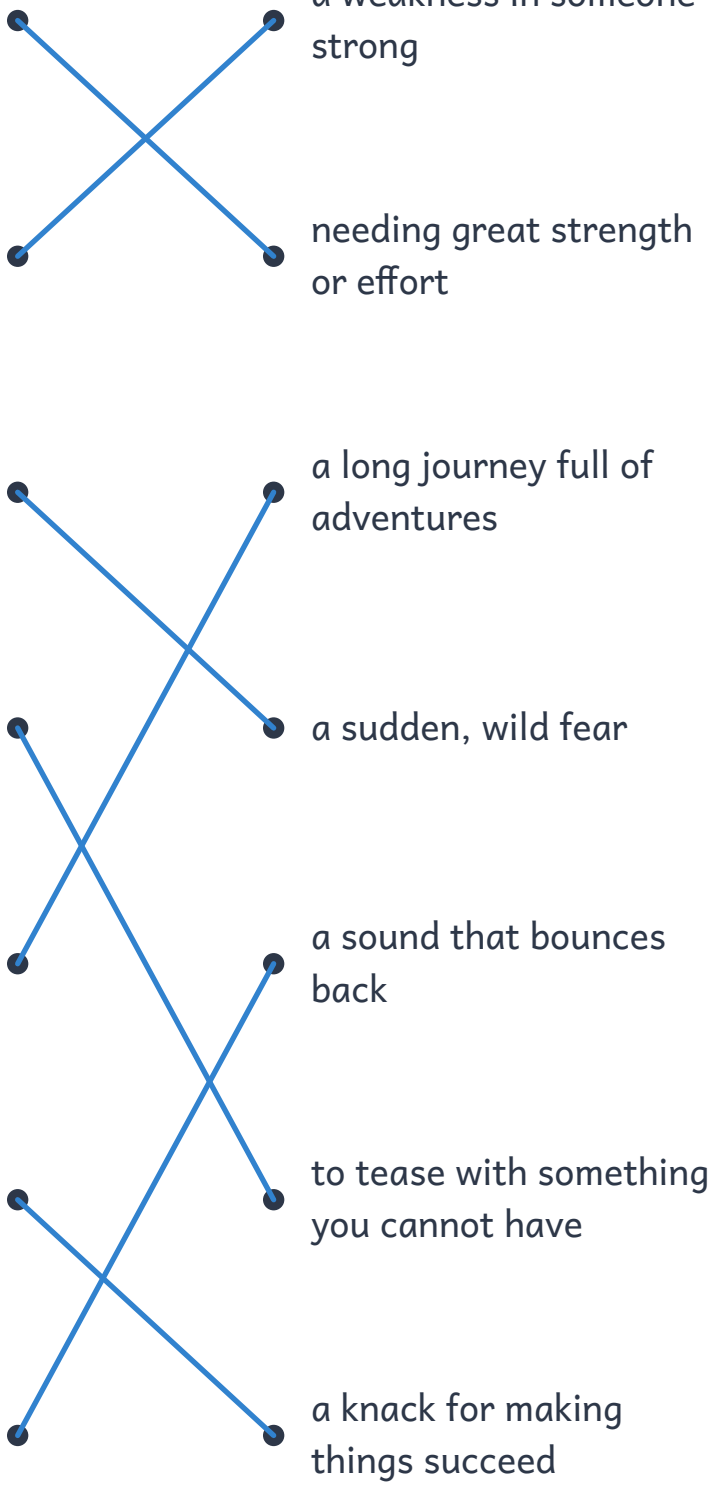
panic (from Pan)

tantalize (from Tantalus)

odyssey (from Odysseus)

the Midas touch

echo (from the nymph Echo)



a weakness in someone strong

needing great strength or effort

a long journey full of adventures

a sudden, wild fear

a sound that bounces back

to tease with something you cannot have

a knack for making things succeed

© 2026 Eggroll Games

Words from Myths in Sentences

Use what you know about each myth to work out what the words mean.

1. Cleaning up the whole beach in one day was a Herculean task. The task was

very hard **very quick** **very fun**

2. Our team is fast and strong, but our Achilles' heel is catching the ball. The team

has hurt feet has one weak spot is good at everything

3. The smell of fresh bread tantalized the hungry hikers, but the bakery was closed. How did the hikers feel?

They were full.

They did not like the smell.

They wanted the bread but could not have it.

4. When the fire alarm rang, the teacher said, “Don't panic.” What did she mean?

Stay calm and do not get wildly scared.

5. Our trip across the country, with a flat tire and a lost map, turned into an odyssey. Why does odyssey fit?

It was a long trip with lots of adventures, like Odysseus's journey home.

6. A Titan named Atlas held up the sky in Greek myths. Today a book of maps is called an atlas. Why might it have that name?

A book of maps holds the whole world, the way Atlas held up the sky.

© 2026 Eggroll Games