

The Trojan War

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Seed
Learning



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Fact or Fiction?

Today, if we want to find out something, we read about it in a book or look at our computers. But what did people do before these things were invented?

If you lived in Ancient Greece, you would probably have learned about things from traveling storytellers. They went from village to village and told their stories to entertain people.



Today we learn about things by reading them in books.



The Ancient Greeks did not have books or computers.

Most of what we know about the Trojan War comes from stories that were passed on just like that. So we don't know if it is true or not. Fact or fiction?

The Story of Troy

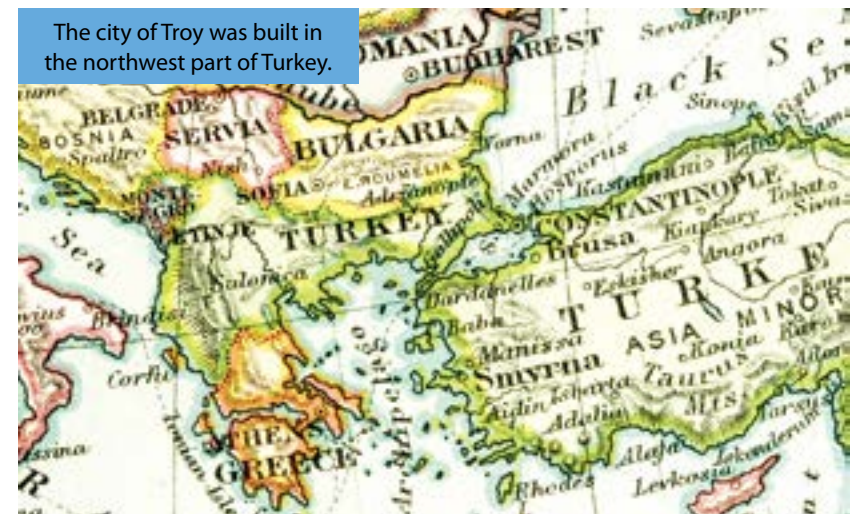
About 3,000 years ago, there was a war between the Greeks and the Trojans—or so the story goes.

Troy was part of the Greek Empire in a land that used to be called Asia Minor but is now known as Turkey.

This we know to be true. It is not the places that are questioned. It is the story itself—the different versions of the story, to be exact.



The blue colored land is Greece and the green colored land is modern-day Turkey.



The city of Troy was built in the northwest part of Turkey.

The Greek Gods

The gods played an important part in the story of the Trojan War.

The Greeks believed there were lots of gods that ruled over the earth. Almost all of them lived at the top of a mountain called Mount Olympus, but some lived in other places, like the sea. Their gods lived lives just like humans except they did not grow old or die.

The Greeks believed that their gods felt emotions just like us. They got angry and sad. Sometimes, they fell in love with ordinary men and women and had children with them.



The god of the sea, Poseidon

There were a lot of Greek gods.



The top of Mount Olympus, the highest mountain in Greece.



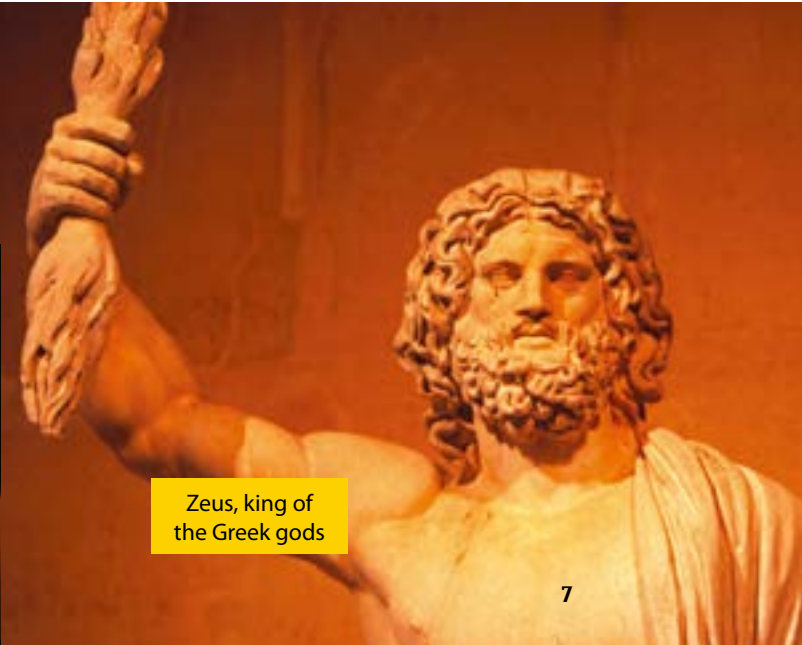
How the Story Begins

The story begins with a princess named Helen. She was the daughter of Zeus, the king of the gods. Helen was said to be the most beautiful woman in the world.

Many Greek kings wanted to marry her. But they all promised to let Helen choose her husband and help him if anything went wrong. Helen chose Menelaus, the king of Sparta.



Helen chose the king of Sparta to be her husband.



Zeus, king of the Greek gods



Helen was the most beautiful woman in the world.

The Start of the War

There are different versions of how the war started, but most of them involve a

prince named Paris.

Perhaps Paris and

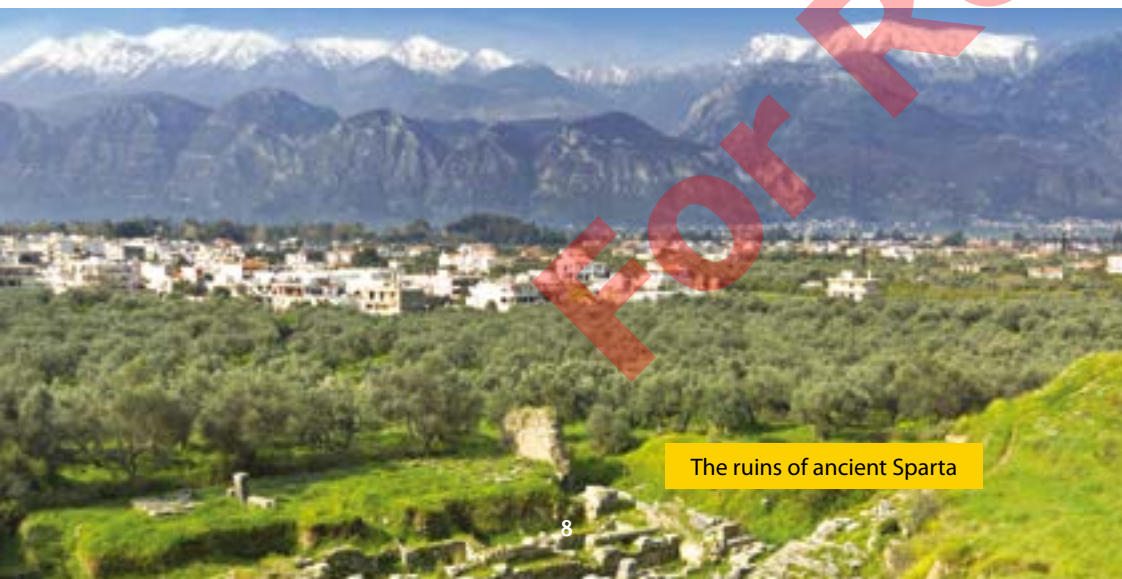
Helen fell in love and they ran away together, or maybe he kidnapped her. There are many stories, but for whatever reason, Helen left Sparta and went to Troy.



Paris asks Helen to go with him.



Spartan soldiers



The ruins of ancient Sparta



Helen being taken away by Paris

Menelaus, Helen's husband, was very upset and asked his brother Agamemnon for help. Among the Greek kings, Agamemnon was the greatest Greek king. They called all the other kings together and reminded them of their

promise to help if there was any trouble. Menelaus and Agamemnon wanted to go to Troy to get Helen back. The others agreed to help, and a war was started.

They got a great army together, and they sailed across the sea.



The Greeks sailed across the Aegean Sea to Troy.

Comprehension Questions

1. We know there really was a place called Troy because...
 - (a) it was written in a book.
 - (b) the storytellers said so.
 - (c) ruins have been found.
 - (d) everyone knows it is true.
2. Menelaus was...
 - (a) the brother of Paris.
 - (b) the brother of Hector.
 - (c) a Greek king.
 - (d) the son of Zeus.
3. Helen and Menelaus were married and lived together in...
 - (a) Troy.
 - (b) Mycenae.
 - (c) Mount Olympus.
 - (d) Sparta.
4. The Greek kings all helped Menelaus because...
 - (a) they were afraid of him.
 - (b) they had made a promise.
 - (c) they liked fighting.
 - (d) they hated the Trojans.
5. When Achilles was a baby, he was dipped into the river Styx to...
 - (a) protect him.
 - (b) hide him.
 - (c) make him a Trojan.
 - (d) wash him.
6. The war lasted for...
 - (a) 10 years.
 - (b) 100 years.
 - (c) 2000 years.
 - (d) 3 years.
7. What did the gods do during the war?
 - (a) Make Mount Olympus
 - (b) Open the gates of Troy
 - (c) Fight
 - (d) Kidnap soldiers
8. Achilles had a weak spot in his...
 - (a) leg.
 - (b) heart.
 - (c) ankle.
 - (d) knee.
9. Greek soldiers hid in the wooden horse...
 - (a) to say sorry.
 - (b) to get inside the city.
 - (c) to play a game.
 - (d) to get some food.
10. The Trojans lost the war because they...
 - (a) were not very brave.
 - (b) were not good at fighting.
 - (c) did not want to fight.
 - (d) were tricked.

Glossary

- **ankle** the part of your leg that is just above your foot
- **archeologist** a person who studies people from long ago by looking at things such as their buildings and tools
- **arrow** a sharp pointed stick fired from a bow
- **brave** not letting fear or danger stop you
- **dip** to put something into a liquid for a short time
- **empire** a group of countries controlled by one person or government
- **fiction** made-up stories about imaginary people and events
- **goddess** a female god
- **kidnap** to take someone away using force
- **magical** with special powers
- **ordinary** not different or special
- **storyteller** a person who tells stories
- **Trojan** belonging to or relating to Troy or its people
- **Troy** an ancient city in Turkey
- **version** a form of something that is slightly different from other forms of the same thing
- **warrior** a brave or skilled fighter

Key 1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (d) 4. (b) 5. (a) 6. (a) 7. (c) 8. (c) 9. (b) 10. (d)