

A CLASSICAL QUIZ

Circle the correct definition for each word from Classical Mythology.
The answers are on the next page!

1. ARCADIA A) a popular game B) a path bordered by marble columns C) a contented land
2. CALYPSO A) a beautiful sea nymph B) a romantic song C) a gentle breeze
3. TITAN A) an old miser B) a huge ocean C) a member of a divine race
4. HARPY A) a bird with a woman's face B) a nagging wife C) a musician
5. LYRE A) Greek money B) a musical instrument C) a soft-spoken deceiver
6. MUSE A) a court jester B) a goddess of the arts C) a cat-woman
7. CASTOR A) a person who rejects worldly goods B) a sweet oil C) a twin
8. DRYAD A) a desert wind B) a tree nymph C) a secret society
9. GORGON A) a type of cheese B) a monstrous woman C) a sacred dragon
10. CORNUCOPIA A) a horn containing food B) a fungal infection of the feet C) an old joke
11. SATYR A) a stringed instrument B) a minor country god C) a verb meaning "to exhaust"
12. AMAZON A) a series of misleading paths B) a woman C) a female warrior
13. ATLAS A) a book of maps B) a Titan C) a mountain range
14. AMBROSIA A) a young woodland goddess B) food of the gods C) a heavenly city
15. ANDROMEDA A) a magical camel B) a princess C) a tool for measuring distances
16. CADUCEUS A) a staff carried by one of the gods B) an exclamation or curse C) a rotten rogue
17. APOLLO A) a poetic letter of apology B) the god of light C) a plump chicken
18. ELYSIAN FIELDS A) the abode of the blessed after death B) fields of forgetfulness C) the entrance to the underworld
19. HADES A) the best days of one's life B) messengers of doom C) the god of the underworld
20. PEGASUS A) a punishment or burden B) a flying horse C) a ruling by the Senate

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A CLASSICAL QUIZ Answers

1. ARCADIA c) A rural country in Peloponnesus, named after Arcas, son of Zeus. Its inhabitants, many of them shepherds, were the ideals of rustic simplicity and blissful contentment.
2. CALYPSO a) One of the Oceanids, who were sea nymphs. She ruled the island of Ogygia, where Odysseus was shipwrecked. Hoping he would agree to stay by her side forever, Calypso offered him the gift of immortality. But when seven years had passed and he still refused to comply, Zeus ordered that he should be allowed to return home.
3. TITAN c) The twelve Titans (six male and six female) were the offspring of the goddess Gaia and the god Uranus.
4. HARPY a) A hideous winged creature with the face of an old hag and the body of a bird with long, hooked claws. Harpies would swoop down and grab food from tables, devouring what they could and spoiling the rest, causing chaos and famine.
5. LYRE b) A stringed instrument like a small harp with a sound box, often used to accompany a singer or poet in ancient Greece.
6. MUSE b) The Muses were the nine daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne. They presided over music, singing, dancing, poetry, and all the arts and sciences.
7. CASTOR c) Castor and Pollux were twin brothers, known as the Dioscuri, meaning "young sons of Zeus." Castor was famous for his skill with horses, while Pollux was a celebrated boxer.
8. DRYAD b) Dryads were forest nymphs who protected trees.
9. GORGON b) The Gorgons were three sisters called Sthenno, Euryale, and Medusa. They were terrifying to behold, with writhing snakes for hair, and eyes that would turn any living being that met their gaze to stone
10. CORNUCOPIA a) A goat's horn brimming over with an abundance of fruit, flowers, and corn. This "horn of plenty" signifies prosperity
11. SATYR b) A demigod of the forests and mountains. Satyrs had pointy ears, short horns, hairy legs, a goat's tail, and cloven hoofs. Given to riotous behavior, they delighted in chasing nymphs and frightening unwary shepherds and travelers.
12. AMAZON c) One of a race of female warriors who reputedly lived near the Black Sea. Their country was ruled by a queen and forbidden to men.
13. ATLAS Trick question! b) One of the Titans, Atlas was a giant who had to carry the heavens upon his shoulders as a punishment for rebelling against the gods. His name was given to a mountain range in northwest Africa (answer c) and later to any bound volume of charts and maps (answer a) after pictures of him supporting the heavens became common in map books.
14. AMBROSIA b) This extremely delicious food of the gods was said to impart immortality when eaten.
15. ANDROMEDA b) Andromeda was chained to some rocks as a sacrifice to the sea monster who would otherwise destroy her country. The hero Perseus slew the monster, freed Andromeda, and then married her.
16. CADUCEUS a) A herald's staff entwined with two serpents. It was carried by Hermes, the winged messenger of the gods.
17. APOLLO b) The son of Zeus. Besides being the god of light who was often identified with the sun, Apollo was the god of prophecy and of music.
18. ELYSIAN FIELDS a) This blissful place at the western end of the earth was the home of the brave and the good after they died. Some legends say heroes became immortal when transported there, living on in eternal sunshine and endless days of pleasure.
19. HADES c) Brother of Zeus and ruler of the gloomy realms of the dead
20. PEGASUS b) The winged horse that sprang from the blood of Medusa the Gorgon when Perseus killed her.