

1/16/22

Replace the Missing Letters

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Tokens (for scorekeeping); prizes (small) for winner(s)

Overview:

Fill in the missing letters to reveal a list of names, words, and phrases related to **MYTHOLOGY**.

Note: Because the content of this game is a little harder than usual, we've included hints with the answers. If your players get stuck, try reading the hints and see if that helps.

Instructions:

1. Write the first clue on a white board or easel large enough for all to see. Be sure to place empty lines where the letters are missing.
2. Allow players to shout out answers.
3. Instead of scoring, you might consider passing out a token (for example, a poker chip, or a piece of cardboard, or a spare button) to the first person you hear shout out the correct answer.
4. When the game is over, the person with the most tokens wins the game. You might consider giving him or her a lottery ticket or a special chocolate bar for that achievement.

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Instructions: Fill in the missing letters to reveal a list of names, words, and phrases related to MYTHOLOGY.

1. E _ REK _ (1)
2. ADO _ I _ (1)
3. _ M _ ZO _ (1)
4. C _ CLO _ S (1)
5. O _ YS _ E _ (1)
6. NA _ _ ISSU _ (1)
7. A _ HIL _ _ S' • _ EEL (2)
8. _ _ OJA _ • HO _ _ E (2)
9. G _ _ DIA _ • _ N _ T (2)
10. HE _ _ N • O _ • T _ _ Y (3)
11. P _ _ DO _ A'S • BO _ (2)
12. T _ _ • _ IDA _ • _ _ UCH (3)
13. OE _ I _ US • CO _ _ LEX (2)
14. HE _ _ ULEA _ • E _ _ OR _ (2)

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ANSWERS

1. **EUREKA** Archimedes famously exclaimed this when he was in the bathtub and discovered how to measure volume using water displacement.
2. **ADONIS** Adonis was a beautiful young man with whom Aphrodite, the goddess of love, was smitten. He was killed by Ares, another of Aphrodite's lovers.
3. **AMAZON** The Amazons were large, strong, women warriors.
4. **CYCLOPS** The Cyclops were huge, single-eyed giants.
5. **ODYSSEY** This long journey was named for a Greek warrior who took nine years to return home from the Trojan War and, along the way, had many adventures.
6. **NARCISSUS** This beautiful young man fell in love with his own reflection.
7. **ACHILLES' HEEL** Achilles died by an arrow to his heel, his only vulnerable spot.
8. **TROJAN HORSE** The huge Trojan Horse contained a small army of men who poured out of it and sacked Troy during the night.
9. **GORDIAN KNOT** King Gordius tied a knot and claimed that whoever could untie it would reveal himself as the future lord of Asia. Eventually, Alexander the Great sliced the knot with his sword, proving that it would take brute force to eventually capture Asia. Thus, to "cut the Gordian knot" means to deal with a challenge in a powerful, decisive manner.
10. **HELEN OF TROY** King Agamemnon assembled a Greek navy, which began a ten-year effort to get Helen, his wife's sister, back from Troy, where she had been abducted by Theseus. Thus, Helen's was "the face that launched a thousand ships."
11. **PANDORA'S BOX** Although she was told by Zeus to keep it closed, Pandora opened up a box that contained all the woes of mankind, thus releasing them onto the world.
12. **THE MIDAS TOUCH** King Midas was granted the wish that everything he touched turn to gold. Sadly, he soon realized that he could not eat, or drink, or even hug his daughter. He rescinded his wish and lost the "golden touch."
13. **OEDIPUS COMPLEX** Freud made this phrase a household term; but it refers back to Oedipus who unwittingly fell in love with and married his own mother.
14. **HERCULEAN EFFORT** As the son of Zeus and a mortal woman, Hercules was required to complete 12 very difficult tasks. Hence, "Herculean effort" has come to mean something that requires great strength and courage.