




TALES OF TERROR FROM ANCIENT GREECE

Spine-tingling stories of mythical beasts

 Voldemort? The Joker? Magneto? Today's supervillains are scary, but they've got nothing on monsters from Ancient Greek tales. Created thousands of years ago, Greek myths often feature battles between heroic humans and terrible creatures to show the importance of bravery and intelligence. NG Kids takes a look at six of these terrifying, people-eating, fire-breathing beasts and the Ancient Greek heroes who bravely battled them.



◀ SEA TRIALS

THE MONSTER SCYLLA AND CHARYBDIS
THE HERO ODYSSEUS

THE BATTLE On both sides of a narrow stretch of sea, monsters lie in wait. On one side, Scylla thrashes around her six snakelike heads, ready to crunch on passing sailors. On the other, Charybdis creates a deadly whirlpool. No person has ever faced these beasts and escaped unharmed. Now the king, Odysseus, and his crew must pass them to get home. They edge around Charybdis' spiralling sea, saving the ship from being swallowed whole. But Scylla swoops down and gobbles up six men. "Row!" Odysseus shouts, leading the rest of the crew past Scylla and out of the deadly channel. Having survived the dreaded beasts, Odysseus and his men continue their journey.



HISS-STORY

THE MONSTER THE HYDRA
THE HERO HERACLES

THE BATTLE In a swamp creeps a deadly nine-headed serpent called the Hydra. Killing it is one of 12 tasks Heracles – the son of Greek god, Zeus – must complete to become immortal. After throwing flaming spears at the beast, the Hydra attacks so Heracles hits its heads with a club, but more grow in their place! Heracles' friend, Iolus, then leaps to his aid with a flaming torch. After an epic battle, the men finally destroy the Hydra!

◀ TERROR TRIO

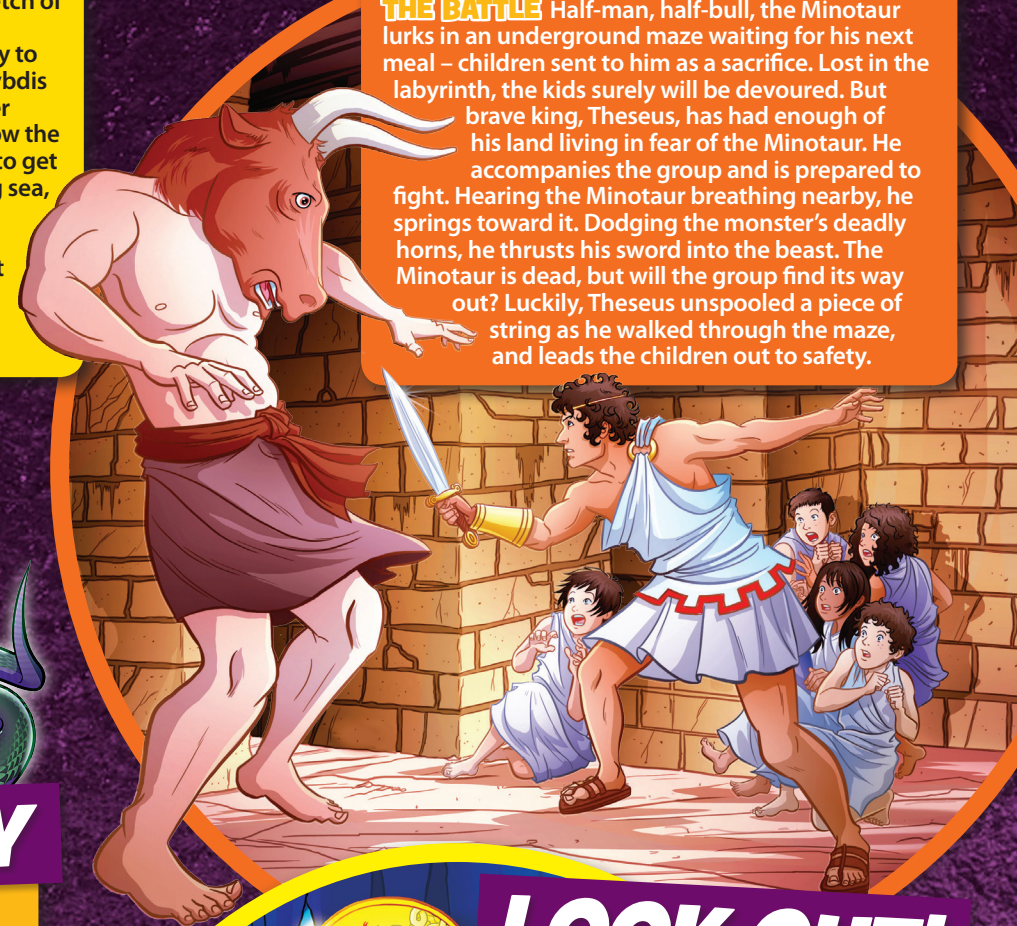
THE MONSTER THE CHIMERA
THE HERO BELLEROPHON

THE BATTLE The fire-breathing Chimera is a terrifying beast with a serpent for a tail, a goat's body and a lion's head! A king has commanded warrior, Bellerophon, to destroy her. Soaring above the monster on a winged horse, he shoots arrows at her. Bellerophon then attaches lead to his spear and thrusts it into the vicious beast. The hero's actions kills the fiery Chimera.

WHAT A BULLY!

THE MONSTER THE MINOTAUR
THE HERO THESEUS

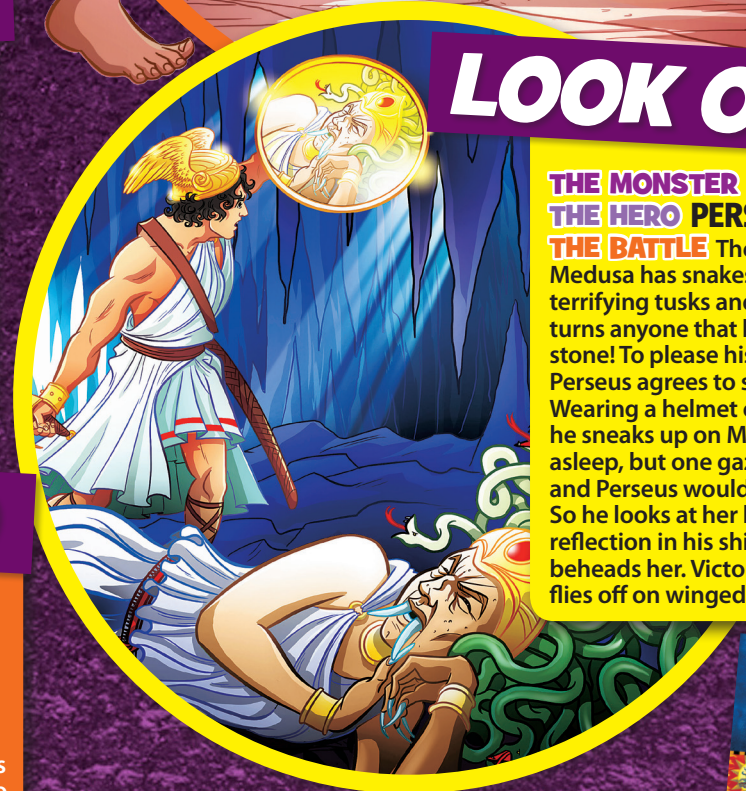
THE BATTLE Half-man, half-bull, the Minotaur lurks in an underground maze waiting for his next meal – children sent to him as a sacrifice. Lost in the labyrinth, the kids surely will be devoured. But brave king, Theseus, has had enough of his land living in fear of the Minotaur. He accompanies the group and is prepared to fight. Hearing the Minotaur breathing nearby, he springs toward it. Dodging the monster's deadly horns, he thrusts his sword into the beast. The Minotaur is dead, but will the group find its way out? Luckily, Theseus unspooled a piece of string as he walked through the maze, and leads the children out to safety.



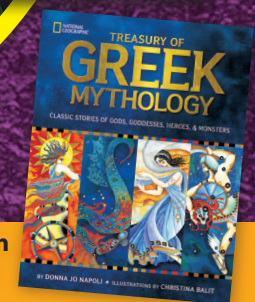
LOOK OUT!

THE MONSTER MEDUSA
THE HERO PERSEUS

THE BATTLE The hideous Medusa has snakes for hair, terrifying tusks and a face that turns anyone that looks at it into stone! To please his king, warrior Perseus agrees to slay the beast. Wearing a helmet of invisibility, he sneaks up on Medusa. She's asleep, but one gaze at her face and Perseus would be a statue! So he looks at her harmless reflection in his shiny shield and beheads her. Victorious, Perseus flies off on winged sandals.



Read about more ancient adventures in *National Geographic Treasury of Greek Mythology* by Donna Jo Napoli



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