

Maria Angelidou

The Cattle of Geryon



Illustrated by
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METACHMIO 

TALES FROM THE GREEK MYTHS

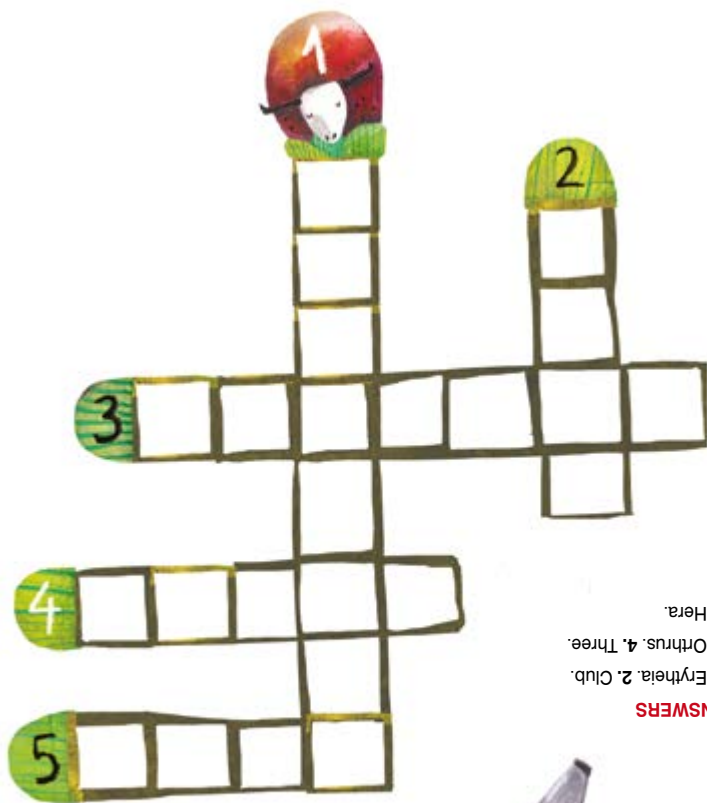


Every king, ever since the beginning of time, has wanted to get his hands on one thing: gold. Lots of gold. But they themselves don't set out to hunt the treasure, oh no! They send brave, intelligent, strapping young men to risk their lives for them. That's why Eurystheus sent Hercules off. Where to? To the country that had the most, the best, the shiniest gold in the world!



WORDSEARCH

1. What was Geryon's island called?
2. Hercules killed Eurytion with his...
3. What was the name of the ten-headed dog that guarded the cattle?
4. How many heads did Geryon have?
5. Who was the goddess who tried to help Geryon in his fight with Hercules?



5. Hera.
3. Orthrus. 4. Three.
1. Erytheia. 2. Club.

ANSWERS



THE CATTLE OF GERYON

In Greek myth, apart from the red-coated cattle of Geryon, there were also red cattle on the island of the sun-god Helios. In the *Odyssey*, we read that Odysseus' companions, when they were returning to Ithaca, stopped off at this island and ate the cattle, even though Odysseus had warned them that the gods would be enraged at this lack of respect. His companions, however, didn't listen to him and they paid with their lives, for the gods sent a storm and they all drowned, apart from Odysseus.

Cows are sacred in India. They roam freely on the roads and people revere them and look after them.

Look up in an encyclopaedia or on the internet how humans benefit from raising cattle. Write down what you find.

- How did they raise them in the past and how do they do it today?
- What are the positive and negative points of the contemporary method of raising these animals?
- How are cows raised in your country?



Educational
material included

At the time when the Earth was still young, it was up to the heroes to carry out the most difficult, or even impossible tasks. And first among them was Hercules, who was sent to bring back the gold of the West, which was guarded, along with a herd of precious cattle, by the giant Geryon and his ten-headed sheepdog Orthrus.

This series offers a new reading of the ancient Greek myths. They are not old, worn-out stories, but gripping tales of timeless human adventures, containing all the fears and joys that have marked and continue to mark the human soul.

THE LABOURS OF HERCULES

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