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It All Started With an Apple...



...The Trojan War

The story of the ten year battle between the Greeks and the Trojans is a complex one that is an epic in itself. Complete the following by using your notes to fill in the blanks.

1. Eris, the goddess of strife (_____), neglected to be invited to an important wedding.
 2. To create trouble, she asked Hephaestus, the _____ to design a golden apple with the simple message " _____ ."
 3. The apple was placed on a table in front of three excessively vain Greek goddesses: _____ , _____ , and _____ .
 4. All three fought fiercely for the distinction of "Fairest."
 5. When asked to choose among the three goddesses, _____ wisely declined.
 6. He gave the task to a handsome Trojan prince named _____ .
 7. The three goddesses wooed and bribed him until he finally selected _____ .
 8. In return, she promised him the love of the most beautiful woman in the entire world.
 9. At that time, the most beautiful woman in the world was _____ , the young queen of King Menelaus of Sparta (Greece).
 10. Paris went to Greece, won Helen's affections and returned to _____ with her.
 11. Menelaus picked his _____ , Agamemnon to lead his army and soon he had a fleet of 1,000 ships ready to set sail for Troy.
 12. The war against Troy lasted _____ long years and included many fierce battles involving warrior-heroes, like Hector, Ajax, and Achilles.
- Eventually, the _____ lost the war when the clever Odysseus had the idea of...

HISTORY AND MYTH COME TOGETHER

The Trojan War: Fact or Fiction? The Trojan War of Greek mythology was a long-drawn-out battle between the Achaeans (Greeks) and the Trojans. The war lasted for 10 years, ending in the sack of TROY and a victory for the Greeks.

Scholars now think that the war did indeed take place, around 1200–1300 B.C. Recent archaeological finds confirm that there was a city of Troy: Extensive Bronze-Age burial grounds and many crematory urns, perhaps some of slain heroes, have been excavated; in addition, caches of food have been found buried beneath the walls of the city, very likely by people from the countryside who were taking refuge within the city walls during a lengthy siege by marauding tribes.

Difficult as it is to separate fantasy from truth, it seems certain that there were numerous trade routes common to the Greeks and the Trojans. Troy, at the northwestern tip of ASIA MINOR, controlled the seaway between the Aegean and the Black Sea, through the narrow inlet called, in ancient times, the HELLESPONT, now known as the DARDANELLES. This strait led to the Sea of Marmara, which in turn led to the Black Sea via the passageway known as the Bosphorus.

Once Troy had fallen, the Greeks were able to establish colonies along the coast of Asia Minor. They dealt in gold, silver, iron, cinnabar, timber, linen, hemp, dried fish, oil and Chinese jade. So, in fact, the return of Helen to the Greeks may have symbolized the restoration of Greek rights to enter the Hellespont. The epic story of the ILIAD may be an assemblage of folk memories of a series of raids by the Greeks against the shores of Anatolia (Asia Minor)—and, in particular, Troy, the guardian of the Dardanelles—to ensure vital passage to the Black Sea and its valuable trade.



THIS ANCIENT DEPICTION OF THE TROJAN HORSE SHOWS THE WHEELS THAT MOVED IT AND THE GREEK SOLDIERS HIDING INSIDE WITH THEIR WEAPONS.

The Wooden Horse of Troy The Trojan War, a 10-year battle between the Greeks and the Trojans, came to an end when the Greek hero ODYSSEUS had the idea of building a huge wooden horse, inside which would be hidden hundreds of Greek soldiers. The horse was given as a gift to the Trojans and dragged within their walls. At dark of night the Greek soldiers burst forth from their clever hiding place, fought the unprepared soldiers and citizens of TROY and destroyed the city, thus winning the war.

Many explanations of the Trojan horse have been put forth. The most likely is that it was a battering ram, a device used to knock down walls since ancient times. The massive walls of Troy, with their sloping bases, presented an almost unsolvable problem to enemy forces. It seems likely that the Greeks constructed a towering "ram" that would be capable of attacking the more vulnerable upper structure of the walls. The "legs" raised the battering ram up to the level of the superstructure. The machine would be moved up to the wall on rollers. To the soldiers, the battering machine may have looked somewhat like a gigantic horse. In the ancient world it was common for soldiers to give animal nicknames to pieces of equipment. For example, the Romans called their catapults scorpions; the very word *ram* comes from the name for a male sheep or goat, which has a solid, sturdy shape.