

## Crash Course Odyssey

1. How long does Odysseus take to complete his journey?  
**10 years (20 if you count the Trojan War)**
2. How long does Google maps say the journey should take?  
**2 weeks**
3. Who composed the Odyssey? What do we know about him?  
**Homer; very little other than he was maybe blind**
4. Why do we say the Odyssey was "composed" and not "written?"  
**It was originally a spoken, memorized poem**
5. When did the Trojan War occur?  
**12th century BCE or about 3200 years ago.**
6. When did Homer compose the Odyssey and the Iliad?  
**8th century BCE or about 2800 years ago.**
7. When was the Odyssey actually written down?  
**6th century BCE or about 2600 years ago.**
8. What is an epic poem?  
**a long narrative poem about a great hero**
9. Who are Helen and Paris?  
**Paris kidnapped or seduced Helen and took her to Troy.  
Helen was the wife of Menelaus. Paris was prince of Troy.**
10. Who are Menelaus and Agamemnon?  
**Two kings. Menelaus asked his brother Agamemnon to go to war with Troy to get his wife Helen back.**
11. Where does the Trojan War take place?  
**In Troy.**
12. How long did the Trojan War last?  
**10 years.**
13. Who are Achilles and Patroclus?  
**Heroes and best friends. When Patroclus is killed by Hector, Achilles destroys most of the Trojan army and Hector, too.**
14. Who is Hector?

**a prince of Troy and a great warrior**

15. At the beginning of the Odyssey, how long has the Trojan War been over?

**10 years**

16. Who are Telemachus and Penelope?

**Odysseus' son and wife, respectively**

17. Where is Odysseus at the start of the Odyssey? Who is he with?

**On the island of Ogygia with Calypso the sea nymph.**

18. What does Odysseus do when he gets home? Why?

**He kills all of Penelope's suitors, because they have eaten up his wealth, courted his wife, and tried to kill his son.**

19. Which goddess loves Odysseus? Why does she love him?

**Athena, because Odysseus is clever and strategic.**

20. How does Penelope test Odysseus?

**She asks for the secret of their wedding bed.**

21. Name at least 5 monsters from the Odyssey and tell what makes them monsters.

**Cyclops (one eye, eats some of the men)**

**Scylla (six-headed monster, eats men)**

**Charybdis (whirlpool monster, drowns men)**

**Circe (witch, turns men into pigs)**

**Sirens (hypnotic singing women, kill men)**

#### ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. What characteristics make Odysseus a classical hero? Is he a hero or not, in your opinion?

a. what is Odysseus' main positive quality? examples?

b. what is Odysseus' main negative quality? examples?

2. Explain the double standard for men and women in the Odyssey. Do you see parallels today?

a. how does Odysseus treat women? examples?

- b. how does Odysseus expect Penelope to behave?
3. Is it possible to stop a cycle of violence?
- a. explain the Greek concept of glory. Which characters have it? Which don't?
  - b. Why does Odysseus slaughter the suitors? What are the results?
4. Explain the differences and similarities between Odysseus and Agamemnon.