

Lesson 20

Perseus

Q: What made Perseus significant?



Perseus' Birth

An oracle told King Acrisius of Argos that his daughter would have a son who would kill him. So he locked his daughter **DANAE**



in a tower chamber. But Zeus entered her chamber as a golden shower. Later, she gave birth to Zeus' son and

named him **PERSEUS**. When Acrisius discovered that she had a son,

he cast Danae and Perseus into the sea in a chest, which landed at an island.

Years later, the king of this island wanted to marry Danae and demanded that Perseus

give him a wedding gift: Medusa's head.



2.

Perseus' Quest

Athena and Hermes visited Perseus and gave him a shield and sickle-sword. They led him to the

3 GRAY SISTERS



, hags who shared one eye, which Perseus stole until they told him where to find the

NYMPHS OF THE NORTH

, who gave him 3 items: invisibility cap, winged sandals, and a bag.

3.

Medusa

The Gorgons were monstrous sisters of the Grey Sisters. Only one,

MEDUSA

, was mortal. Perseus flew to the remote island of the Gorgons.

snaky hair



look turns to stone

He cut off the head of Medusa by looking

at her reflection in his shield.

He put her head into his bag and avoided her

two sisters by flying away invisibly.







4.

Perseus to the Rescue!

Perseus rescued and married **ANDROMEDA**, daughter of the king and queen of Ethiopia. She had been chained to a rock by the sea as a sacrifice, because her mother bragged she was lovelier than the Nereids.



Perseus killed ...

- the sea-monster
- Andromeda's ex-fiancé (petrified)
- the king of his island (petrified)
- Acrisius with a discus (accident)



Finally, Perseus returned the items and gave

Medusa's head to Athena,

who put it on her shield.

What I've learned: Perseus was Greece's 1st hero.















