



Lesson Extensions and Activities for

Jason and the Argonauts: The First Great Quest in Greek Mythology

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Reading Is Fundamental

Google Voyager Folktales Unit

Book Description

Jason, a mortal with mighty gods as parents, lived many years ago in ancient Greece. To reclaim the throne that's his by birth, Jason must go on an epic adventure to retrieve the Golden Fleece. Will his ship the Argo and the Argonauts, his crew of heroes, succeed on this dangerous adventure or will Jason's connections to powerful gods and goddesses fail him?

Folktale Background

The story of Jason's search for the Golden Fleece is one of the earliest recorded Greek myths, stories that to the ancient Greeks were very real and of a religious nature. Because they are the product of an oral tradition, many of the Greek stories were changed slightly as they were passed down through generations. The author of this version of the story of Jason and the Argonauts referenced every telling of the tale that he could find, pulling interesting episodes from different interpretations to bring this classic tale to a new audience.

Vocabulary

Vanity – Excessive pride in one's own appearance or achievements.

Hindrance – Something that causes a delay to something or someone.

Enthrall – To capture the fascinated attention of someone.

Chasm – A deep gorge in the earth, rock or another surface.

Prophecy – A prediction.

Bade – Commanded or ordered someone to do something.

Clad – Clothed.

Raspy – Hoarse sounding.

Figurehead – A carving set at the prow of an old-fashioned ship.

Apprehensive – Anxious that something bad will happen.

Lyre – A stringed instrument like a small U-shaped harp.

Rousing – Exciting.

Lament – A passionate expression of grief.

Insolent – Showing a rude, arrogant lack of respect.

Perilous – Full of danger.

Antagonistic – Showing or feeling opposition or hostility towards something or someone.

Besiege – To surround a place with armed forces in order to force its surrender.

Soothsayer – A person who can foresee the future.

Unbeknownst – Without the knowledge of something.

Clamor – A loud, confused noise.

Forthright – Going straight to the point clearly and firmly.

Salve – An ointment used to promote healing of the skin or as protection.

Furrows – Long, narrow trenches made in the ground by a plow.
Belligerent – Hostile and aggressive.
Moored – Attached by a cable or rope to the shore or an anchor.
Relinquish – Voluntarily cease to keep or claim.

Prior to Reading

- Ask students if they have heard any stories set in Greece. Call on volunteers to share the titles of the stories and to provide an overview of what happens and to whom in each. Note the names of the stories and the characters on the whiteboard.
- Walk students through the Greece [Google Voyager Experience](#). Students will learn about the country where the story is set.

While Reading

- Have students create a “family tree” as you read the story. When a character’s name is read, discuss that character’s relationship with others in the story and have students position that character’s name in the appropriate place on their trees.

Post Reading Activities

- Have a different student summarize each section, paying special attention to the characters introduced in each. Have students check their family trees for accuracy during these summaries.
- Have students complete the Criss Cross, Memory Matching, and Word Search puzzles about *Jason and the Argonauts* on RIF’s Literacy Central (<https://www.rif.org/literacy-central>).

Lesson Extensions and Activities

Here are some ways to further explore the story:

Primary Standard for all activities: RL.K.10 (Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.)

- **Math** – Jason and the Argonauts go on a wild, far-reaching adventure! Have students practice using a map to measure the distances between the places they traveled.

Objective: Students will use a map and a ruler to measure represented distances.

Standards: CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.2.MD.A.1 (Measure the length of an object by selecting and using appropriate tools such as rulers, yardsticks, meter sticks, and measuring tapes.)

Materials:

- A copy of the map from the front or back of the book
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Paper

- **Arts** – Many fantastic creatures are introduced throughout *Jason and the Argonauts*. Have students choose one of these creatures to illustrate based on the description that they read in the book.

Objective: Students will translate written descriptions into artistic works.

Standards: National Core Arts Standards, Anchor Standard #3 (Refine and complete artistic work.)

Materials:

- Markers
- Backboards
- Poster boards
- Colored pencils
- Construction paper
- Pencils
- Magazines that can be cut
- Scissors

- **Science** – A golden ram rescues King Athamas and Nephele’s children by flying them to the very edge of the world. Have students explore how flight happens in [this science experiment](#) from PBS.

Objective: Students will learn about lift and force, while also gaining insight into the engineering design process.

Standards: NSES Science as Inquiry Standards Levels K-4 (Abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry; Understanding about scientific inquiry.); NSES Science as Inquiry Standards Level K-4 (Position and motion of objects.)

Materials:

- Paper
- Scissors
- Beach ball (optional)
- Leaf blower or hair dryer (optional)

- **Writing** – Jason has quite the adventure! He probably wouldn’t be able to remember everything that happened to him without a journal. Have students write a journal entry as Jason, summarizing some of the things that happened to him on his adventure.

Objective: Students will practice creative writing.

Standards: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.5 (With guidance and support from adults, respond to questions and suggestions from peers and add details to strengthen writing as needed.)

Materials:

- Journals
- Pens