

UNDERSTANDING THE LESSON**2****Recalling Facts****LESSON 1 CONTENT MASTER**

* Read each question and write the correct answer on the blank that follows. Use complete sentences.

1. Name the two epics written by Homer, and tell what they are about. _____

2. Where was the city of Troy located? _____

3. According to the Greeks, how did the gods and goddesses take part in life on earth?

4. Name two Greek gods and two goddesses, and explain who they were. _____

5. Why did Heinrich Schliemann believe he could find the ruins of Troy? _____

6. What have the excavations of Schliemann and others shown about Troy? _____

7. What did Herodotus describe in his history of the Persian Wars? _____

8. How did Herodotus' history differ from history written today? _____

Think and Write: Write a paragraph contrasting myth and history. You may use the back of the sheet.

INTERPRETING A GREEK MYTH

2

* A myth is a story that explains some custom, belief, or happening in nature. It usually involves gods and goddesses, or other supernatural beings. Read this myth about the Greek goddess Athena. Then answer the questions that follow.

Athena, the goddess of war and wisdom, was the beautiful daughter of Zeus, ruler of the gods. She was generous and skilled, and she shared her knowledge with humans. She showed ordinary people how to make tools and musical instruments, and how to spin wool yarn and make woven cloth.

Athena was sometimes jealous of other gods or of humans who did something better than she. A young woman named Arachne (uh RAK nee) was an excellent weaver. Arachne was fast and neat and her designs were unusual and colorful. Neighboring people came to see the large tapestry (heavy cloth) that she had woven. The tapestry showed the gods Poseidon and

Prometheus and the goddess Aphrodite. All this attention made Arachne so proud that she boasted, "I am an even better weaver than Athena. She may have been the master teacher, but look at *my* beautiful work."

When Athena heard this, she went to see Arachne and the tapestry. She saw that it was indeed better than she could have done herself. This made Athena so jealous and angry that she ripped the tapestry apart.

Arachne was very frightened and ran into the woods to escape. However, Athena caught Arachne and transformed her into a spider, saying, "You can still weave, little one. But now your thread will be a thousand times finer and your work a thousand times more delicate."

1. Why do you think Athena shared her knowledge with humans? _____

2. How did Arachne arouse Athena's anger? _____

3. Why was Athena so upset when she saw Arachne's tapestry? _____

4. What Greek city is named in Athena's honor? _____

Thinking Further: Do you think Athena had a right to be upset with Arachne?
