

# Theseus's Adventures



**Question Book:**  
Year 6, pages 24-25

**Author / Source:**  
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**Genre:**  
Myth

## Cross-curricular links:

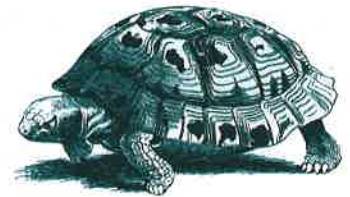
- History (Ancient Greece)
- PSHE (democracy)

## Introduction

In Greek mythology, Theseus is a great hero, credited with unifying the communities of Attica into the Athenian city-state. It is said that Theseus's father was King Aegeus of Athens. Theseus spent his childhood with his mother, Aethra, in the Peloponnese city of Troezen. When he came of age, Theseus set out for Athens to take his place as heir to his father's kingdom. During his journey, he experienced many adventures, two of which are described in this extract. Before reading the extract with the class, show pupils a map of Greece, highlighting the location of Troezen and Athens. Point out the Isthmus of Corinth, and explain that it is a narrow land bridge linking the Peloponnese peninsula to mainland Greece.

## Answers

1. E.g. escaped; avoided; evaded
2. E.g. He used a huge pine tree to throw Sinis into the air so that he would smash into the mountain side.
3. E.g. Because the Isthmus was very narrow, and Sciron guarded the only possible path.
4. to devour
5. E.g. He felt afraid. He had killed all the people who had washed his feet, so he was afraid that Theseus was going to kill him in the same way.
6. E.g. It includes a giant. OR E.g. It includes a huge, man-eating tortoise.  
OR E.g. It includes a hero who must complete some difficult tasks.
7. Any appropriate answer. E.g. Yes, because he easily managed to defeat Sinis and Sciron, so I think he would also have been able to survive any other dangers that he might have faced on the way to Athens.



## Extra Activities

- Get pupils to identify all the adjectives in this extract. Working in small groups, they should try to think of as many synonyms as possible for each adjective.
- Ask pupils to write a news article reporting the adventures described in this extract. Encourage them to use appropriate language and presentational features.
- Ask pupils to imagine what adventure Theseus might have experienced next on his journey to Athens. They should write a continuation of this extract, describing what they think happened next.
- Question 6 in the Question Book asks about the conventions of myths. As a class, discuss pupils' answers to this question. Can pupils think of any other conventions that might mark a text out as a myth?
- Athens is widely regarded as the birth-place of democracy. Ask pupils to research Athenian democracy, focusing on who was and was not allowed to participate, the make-up and role of the assembly and the courts, and the methods by which officeholders were selected. Pupils should use their findings to create a poster explaining the key features of Athenian democracy.