

Name _____

The Legendary Trojan War: When Gods and Heroes Collide

Short Answer Key

1. The gods took sides in the war and often intervened directly. For example, Athena tricked Hector into facing Achilles in single combat, leading to Hector's death.
2. Achilles's vulnerable heel was his only weakness, as his mother had held him by the heel when dipping him in the River Styx. Paris, guided by Apollo, shot Achilles in the heel with an arrow, causing his death.
3. The Trojan War ended when the Greeks used the wooden horse as a trick to infiltrate Troy. Greek soldiers were hidden inside the horse. At night, they emerged, opened the gates for their comrades, and Troy fell. The wooden horse played a crucial role in this deception.
4. Famous heroes included Achilles (Greek, known for his strength and vulnerability in the heel), Hector (Trojan, known for his bravery and defense of Troy), Odysseus (Greek, known for his cunning), and Ajax (Greek, known for his strength).
5. The Trojan War had a significant impact on Greek mythology and literature. It inspired epic poems like the "Iliad" and "Odyssey" by Homer, which are foundational works of Western literature. The war's themes of heroism, love, and conflict continue to resonate with human experiences, making it a timeless and memorable story.

