

Battle for Athens

She stood tall against the Acropolis looking towards the city below. Her immaculate hair haloed by the sun. The light breeze felt cool against her skin as she turned to face Poseidon.

"You cannot win, girl," the God of the Sea growled. "This city can belong to only one god."

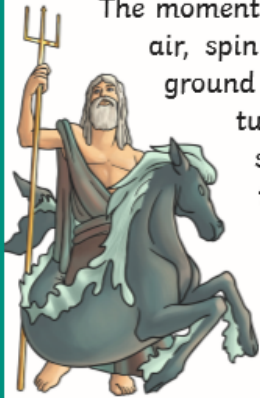
She eyed him from head to toe. He was huge: truly colossal. With his trident in hand and still dripping having summoned himself from his ocean home. Under a silver mane of tangled hair and beard, his body was muscular and solid. Her uncle was indeed a formidable opponent, second only to Zeus, her father, in terms of power. But he was not unbeatable. "We shall see," she replied, turning her gaze back to the city.

"It is not wise to turn your back, girl!" Poseidon bellowed. She could feel the rocks vibrate as his anger grew. "Face me!"

She smiled slyly but didn't turn. She knew what would happen next.



The moment Poseidon's trident struck the earth, she launched herself into the air, spinning like an acrobat. The mighty earthquake ripped through the ground she had been standing on, sending half the mountain and a tidal wave of water tumbling towards the city below. Athena drew back her spear, twisted her body, struck Poseidon across his helmet and landed gracefully on a cliff edge above. It took Poseidon a few moments to understand what had just happened. He slowly took off his helmet and inspected the scratch. "Hmm," he snarled. "Impressive. Daddy would be proud. Tell me, Athena, Goddess of War and Wisdom, why do you desire this city?"



"The mortals want me," Athena replied simply.

1. Find and write three words or phrases from the text that describe what Poseidon looks like:

2. Why do you think Athena didn't turn around when Poseidon told her to?

3. "Daddy would be proud." Why do you think Poseidon says this?

4. Think of three ways that Athena and Poseidon differ in the way they talk and act in the story.

DISCOVER ATHENS

Athens is widely regarded as the historical capital of the world. Dating back to the Neolithic period, Greece's capital city is over 12,000 years old which makes it one of the oldest on the planet. Named after the Greek Goddess Athena, Athens is situated in the south east of the country. It was the heart of the Ancient Greek civilisation and the birthplace of democracy.

Today, it is a popular holiday destination with its mix of sun, sea and culture. The city is blessed with ancient monuments and buildings, museums, cafes, bars and shopping centres. Athens also has some of the best beaches in Europe, and is close to the bustling Port of Piraeus.



Book your holiday to Athens today!



Acropolis

The Acropolis is one of the historic jewels of Athens. It's a collection of ancient monuments situated on a rocky hill in the centre of the city. The acropolis's walls have surrounded it for more than 3,300 years, but there is evidence that it was first built in the 13th century BC! That's around 15,000 years ago! It's well worth a visit!

Parthenon

The Parthenon is probably the acropolis's most famous buildings. Built to worship the Goddess Athena after the Greek victory at Marathon in 490BC, this ancient temple was finally completed in 438BC. Interestingly, the Parthenon wasn't the first temple to be built on the acropolis and replaced an older temple of Athena that was destroyed after a Persian invasion!

1. Who is Athens named after?

2. Put three of these answers in the correct box:

13th century BC, 490 BC, 438 BC, 3,300 years, 12,000 years, 15,000 years

The year the Parthenon was finally completed.	
The year of the Greek victory in Marathon.	
Evidence of the Acropolis first being built is this many years ago.	

3. 'Athens is widely regarded as the historical capital of the world.'

What does 'widely regarded' mean?

4. Can you write another persuasive catchphrase for the advertisement to encourage people to visit Athens or one of its tourist attractions?
