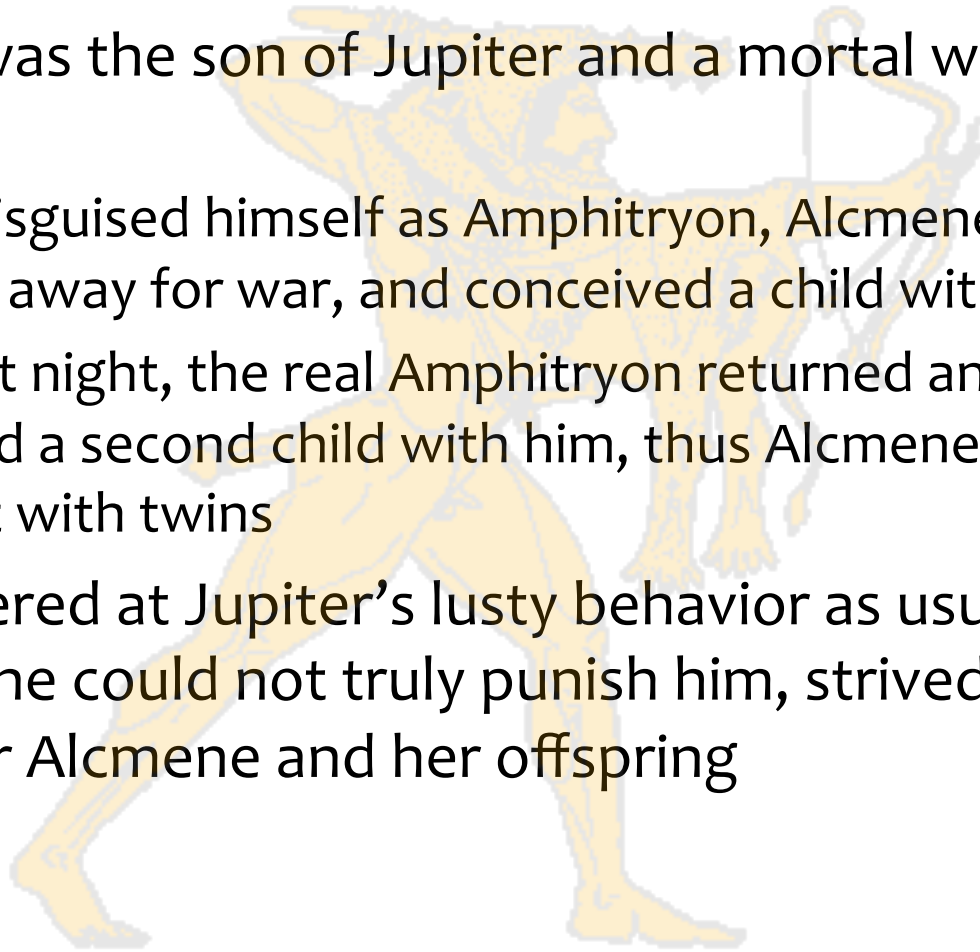


LABORES HERCULIS



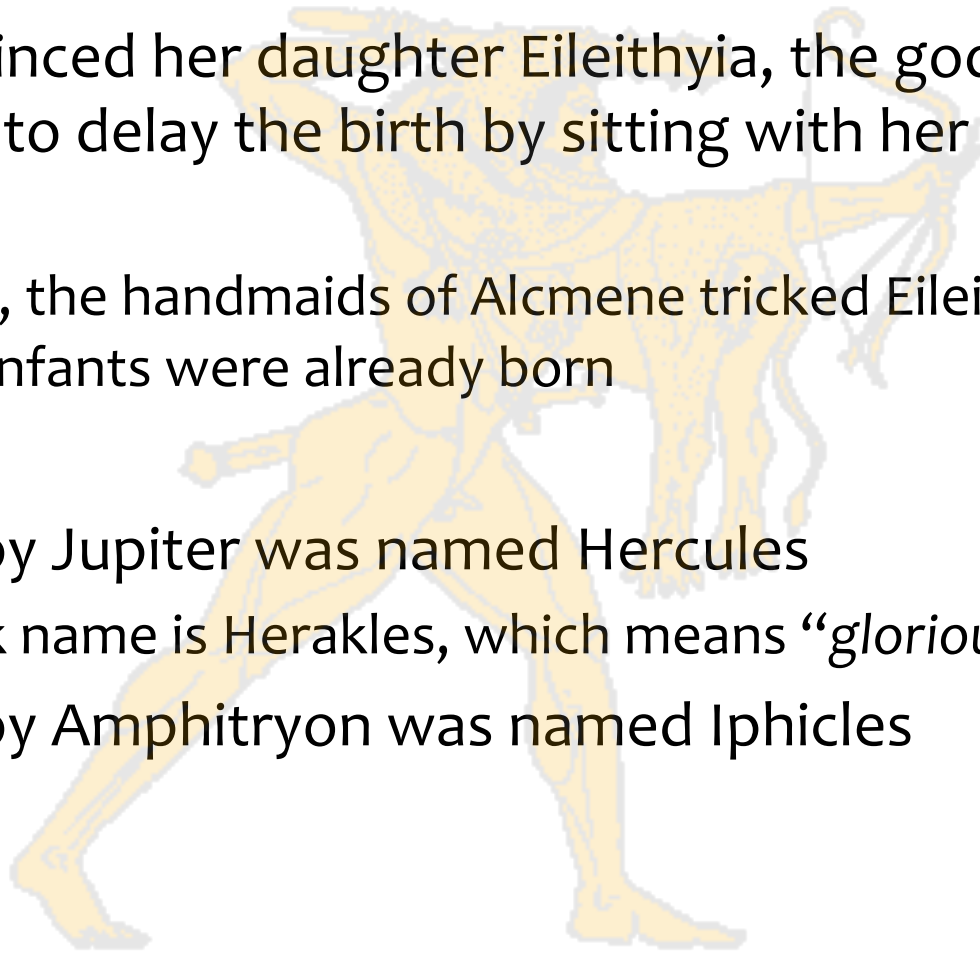
Background: Birth of Hercules

- Hercules was the son of Jupiter and a mortal woman, Alcmena
 - Jupiter disguised himself as Amphitryon, Alcmena's husband, who was away for war, and conceived a child with him.
 - Later that night, the real Amphitryon returned and she conceived a second child with him, thus Alcmena became pregnant with twins
- Juno, angered at Jupiter's lusty behavior as usual but knowing she could not truly punish him, strived to make life difficult for Alcmena and her offspring



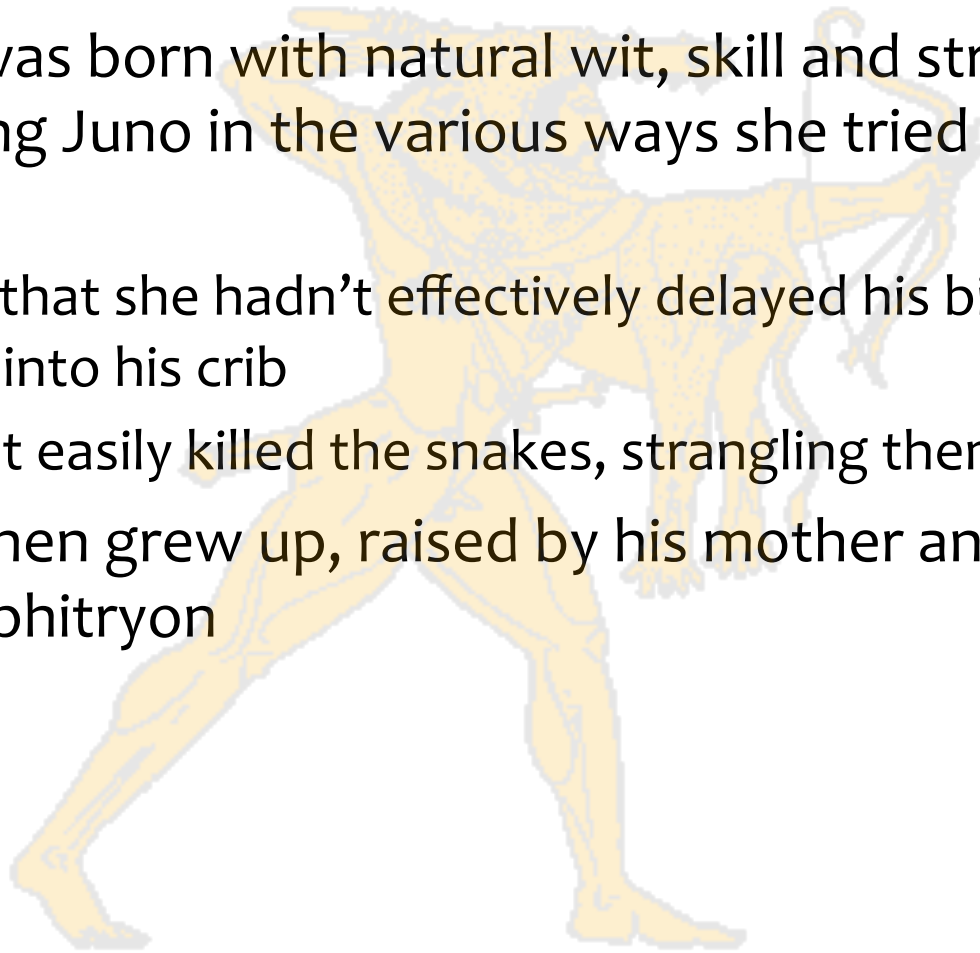
Background: Birth of Hercules

- Juno convinced her daughter Eileithyia, the goddess of childbirth, to delay the birth by sitting with her arms and legs crossed
 - However, the handmaids of Alcmene tricked Eileithyia, shouting as if the infants were already born
- The child by Jupiter was named Hercules
 - His Greek name is Herakles, which means “*glorious gift of Hera*”
- The child by Amphitryon was named Iphicles



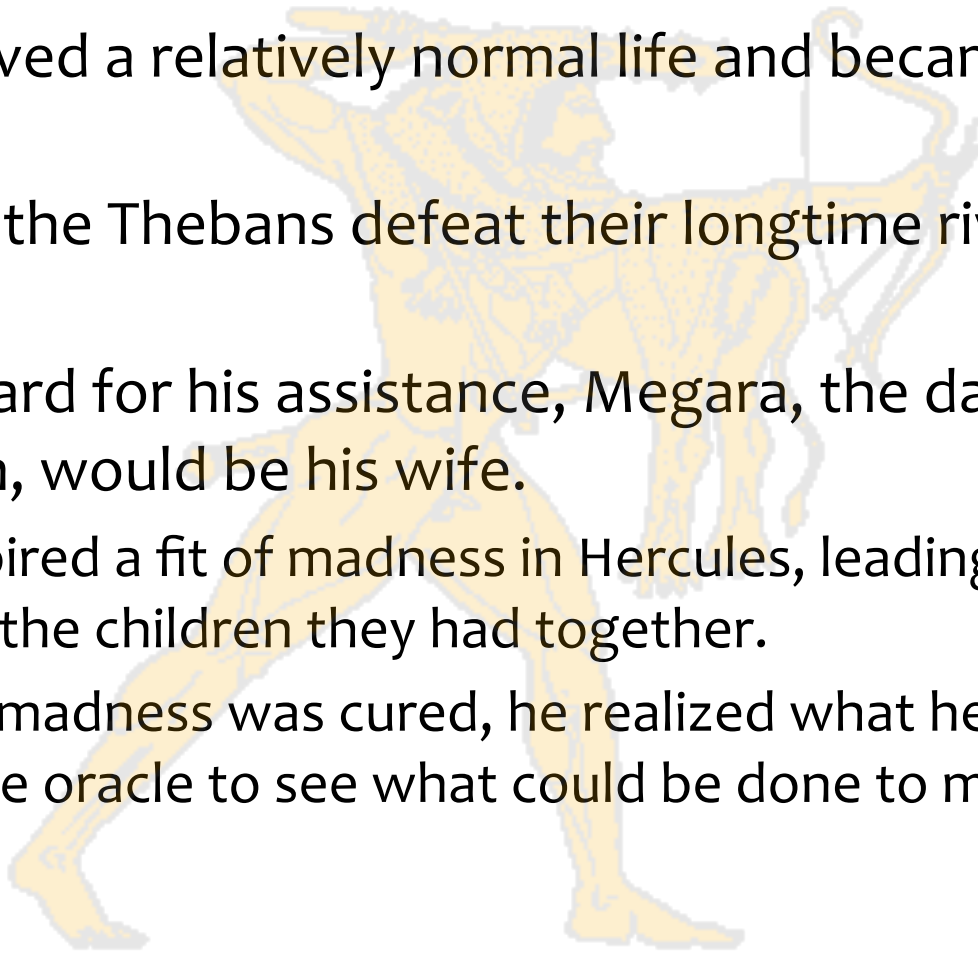
Background: Childhood

- Hercules was born with natural wit, skill and strength, often outsmarting Juno in the various ways she tried to harm the boy
 - Angered that she hadn't effectively delayed his birth, Juno sent serpents into his crib
 - The infant easily killed the snakes, strangling them
- Hercules then grew up, raised by his mother and his foster father Amphitryon



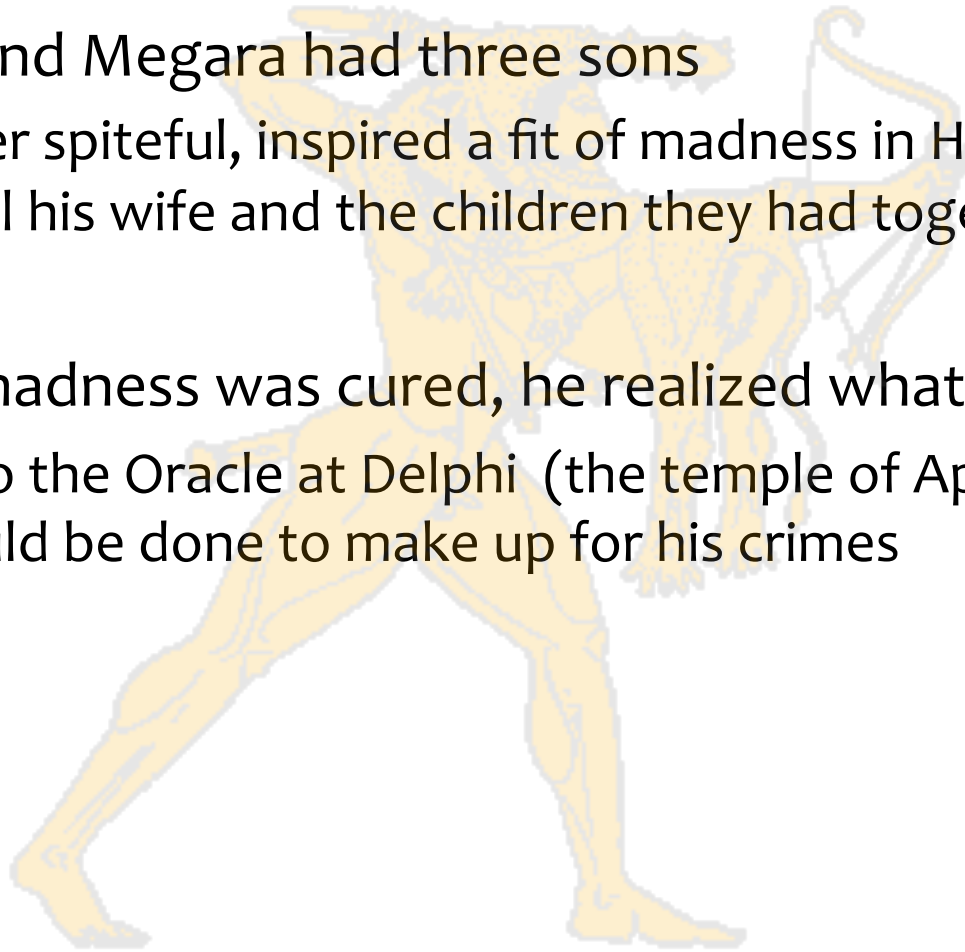
Background: Adulthood

- Hercules lived a relatively normal life and became a great warrior
- He helped the Thebans defeat their longtime rivals, the Minyans
- As his reward for his assistance, Megara, the daughter of King Creon, would be his wife.
 - Juno inspired a fit of madness in Hercules, leading him to kill his wife and the children they had together.
 - Once his madness was cured, he realized what he had done and fled to the oracle to see what could be done to make up for his crimes



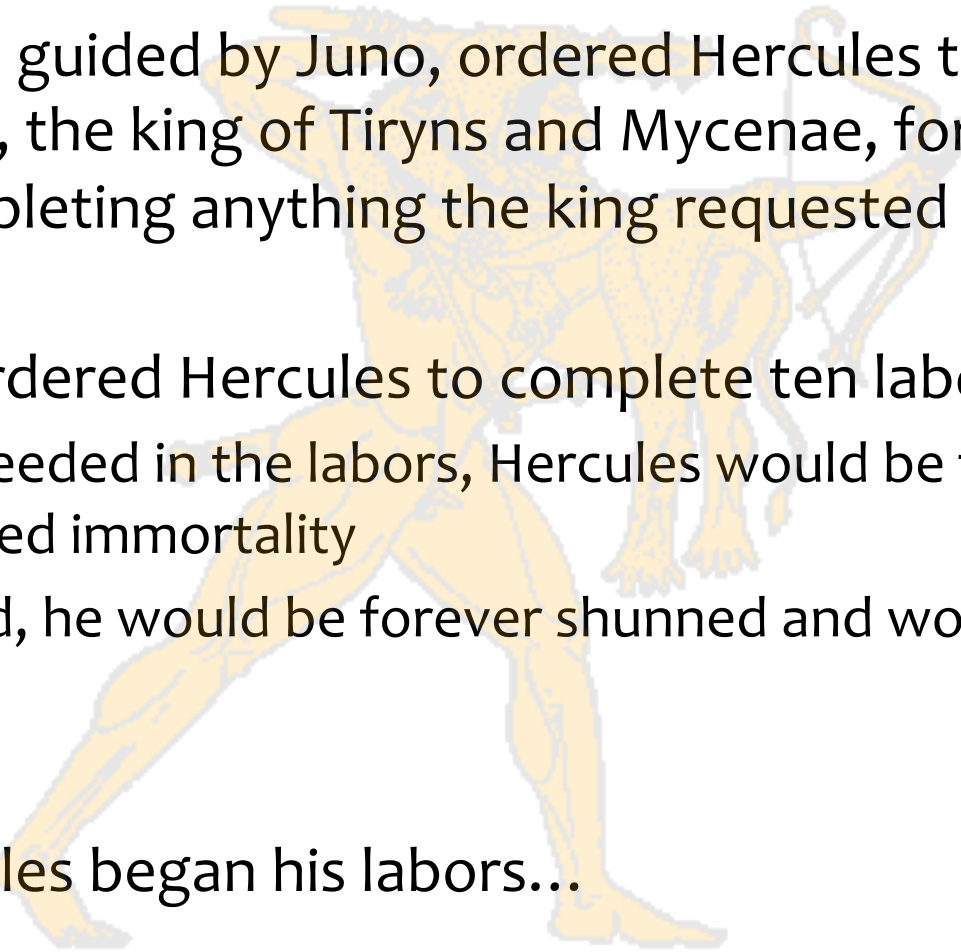
Background: Start of the Labors

- Hercules and Megara had three sons
 - Juno, ever spiteful, inspired a fit of madness in Hercules, leading him to kill his wife and the children they had together.
- Once his madness was cured, he realized what he had done
 - He fled to the Oracle at Delphi (the temple of Apollo) to see what could be done to make up for his crimes



Background: Start of the Labors

- The Oracle, guided by Juno, ordered Hercules to serve King Eurystheus, the king of Tiryns and Mycenae, for at least ten years, completing anything the king requested
- The King ordered Hercules to complete ten labors
 - If he succeeded in the labors, Hercules would be freed of his sins and granted immortality
 - If he failed, he would be forever shunned and would die as a mortal
- Thus Hercules began his labors...

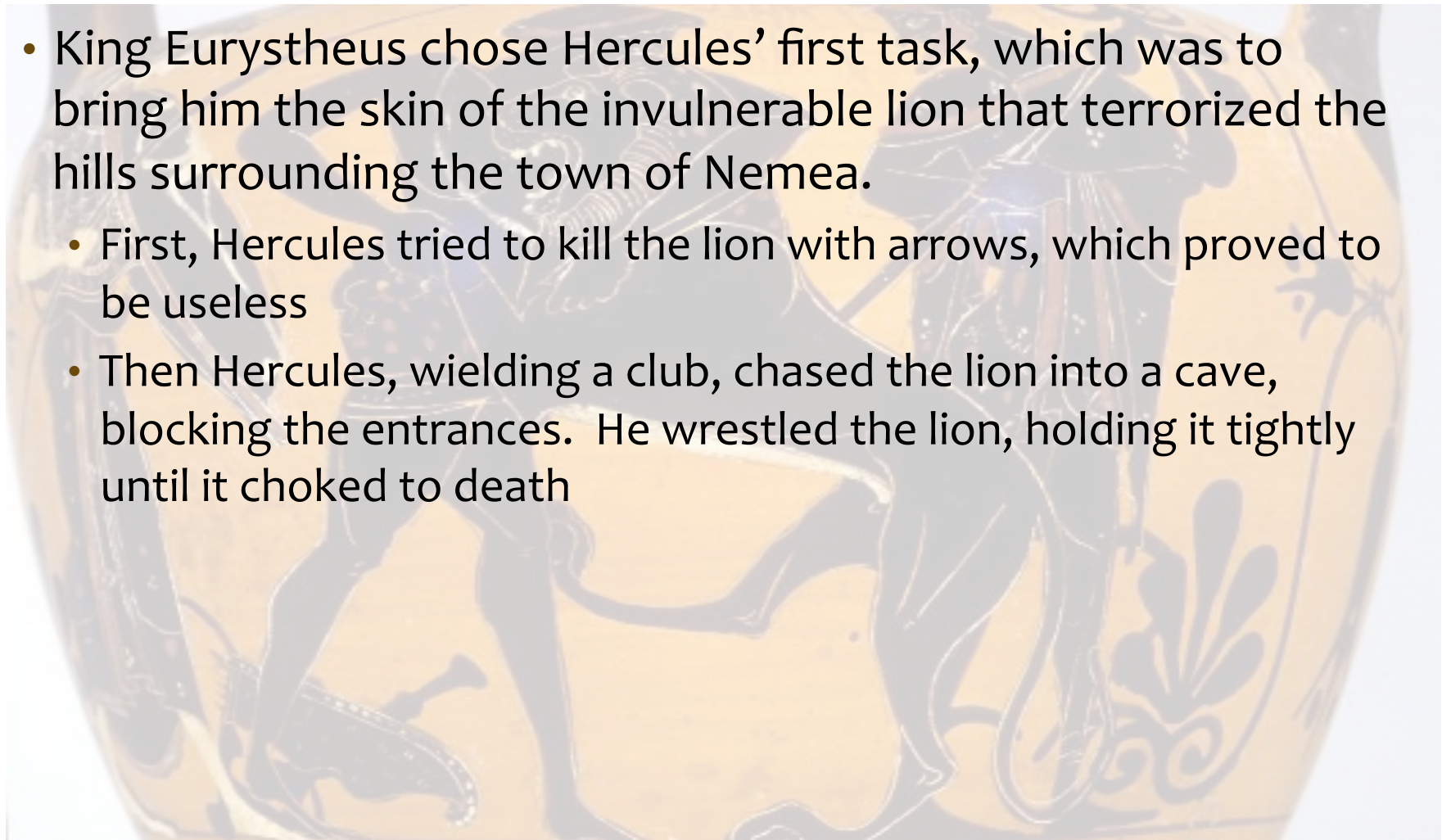


Labor I: The Nemean Lion



Labor I: The Nemean Lion

- King Eurystheus chose Hercules' first task, which was to bring him the skin of the invulnerable lion that terrorized the hills surrounding the town of Nemea.
 - First, Hercules tried to kill the lion with arrows, which proved to be useless
 - Then Hercules, wielding a club, chased the lion into a cave, blocking the entrances. He wrestled the lion, holding it tightly until it choked to death



Labor I: The Nemean Lion

- Hercules returned to show the King of his success, presenting him with the skin of the lion
- King Eurystheus was both amazed and afraid at Hercules completing a seemingly impossible task
 - He banned Hercules from entering the city gates
 - He also had a large bronze jar made up and partially buried in which he may hide from Hercules. From then on, the king delivered his orders to Hercules via a herald, too afraid to face such a fearsome hero



Labor II: The Lernean Hydra



Labor II: The Lernean Hydra

- The second task was to kill the Hydra, which lived in a murky swamp outside the town of Lerna
 - The hydra was a monstrous serpent with nine heads that would rear up and attack the countryside, killing the citizens with its poisonous venom
- Hercules did not go alone and took his nephew Iolaus
 - First, the pair shot the hydra with flaming arrows, hoping to lure it out of its cave
 - Then, they tried smashing its heads
 - Unfortunately, for every head that was smashed, two heads grew back in its place
 - Finally, the two teamed up and as soon as Hercules chopped off one head, Iolaus would burn the neck with a torch

Labor II: The Lernean Hydra



- They removed the last head and burned it outside the city of Lerna, then buried it under a heavy rock
- Hercules dipped his arrows in the hydra's venomous blood
- Eurystheus was less than impressed with Hercules' efforts on this task because he had help from Iolaus.
 - This labor, therefore, did not count towards his requisite ten.

Labor III: The Ceryneian Deer



Labor III: The Ceryneian Deer

- Hercules' third task was to go to Ceryneia and collect the Ceryneian Deer (also called *Ceryneian Hind*; *hind* = female deer)
 - This deer was special for many reasons:
 - it had golden horns
 - It had bronze hoofs
 - It was sacred to the goddess Diana
 - Because the deer was sacred to Diana (and he already had one goddess highly upset with him) he must somehow capture it without harming it
- Hercules chased this deer for a whole year
 - Once she got weary from the chase, she laid down to rest upon the mountain
 - Hercules shot her, and carried her on his shoulders and departed for Mycenae

Labor III: The Ceryneian Deer

- On his return to Mycenae, he encountered Apollo and Diana
 - Diana was very angry and nearly took the deer away
 - Hercules explained his labors and the message from the oracle
 - Diana forgave Hercules and healed the deer
- Hercules carried the deer alive to Eurystheus



Labor IV: The Erymanthian Boar



Labor IV: The Erymanthian Boar

- Hercules' fourth labor was to bring the Erymanthian Boar to King Eurystheus alive
 - Every day, this boar, living near Erymanthus, would come out and ravage the countryside, destroying the land and harming both man and beast
- On his way to Erymanthus, Hercules visited his centaur friend, Pholus
 - The two dined together and shared some meat. When Hercules asked for some wine, Pholus didn't want to open the jar since it belonged to all of the centaurs.
 - Hercules didn't care and opened the jar and drank the wine anyway
 - The centaurs got angry and came to fight Hercules

Labor IV: The Erymanthian Boar

- Hercules fought the centaurs, throwing burning sticks from the fire at them and beating them with his club
 - He also shot his poisoned arrows at them, wounding one so fatally that the gods honored him with his own constellation, Sagittarius
 - Pholus was curious about the nature of these arrows, and unfortunately touched some of the poison and died too
- Hercules, saddened, buried his friend and proceeded to hunt the boar
- The boar wasn't hard to find and Hercules chased it around the mountain until it became trapped in a deep patch of snow.
- He trapped it into a net, and carried it back to Mycenae

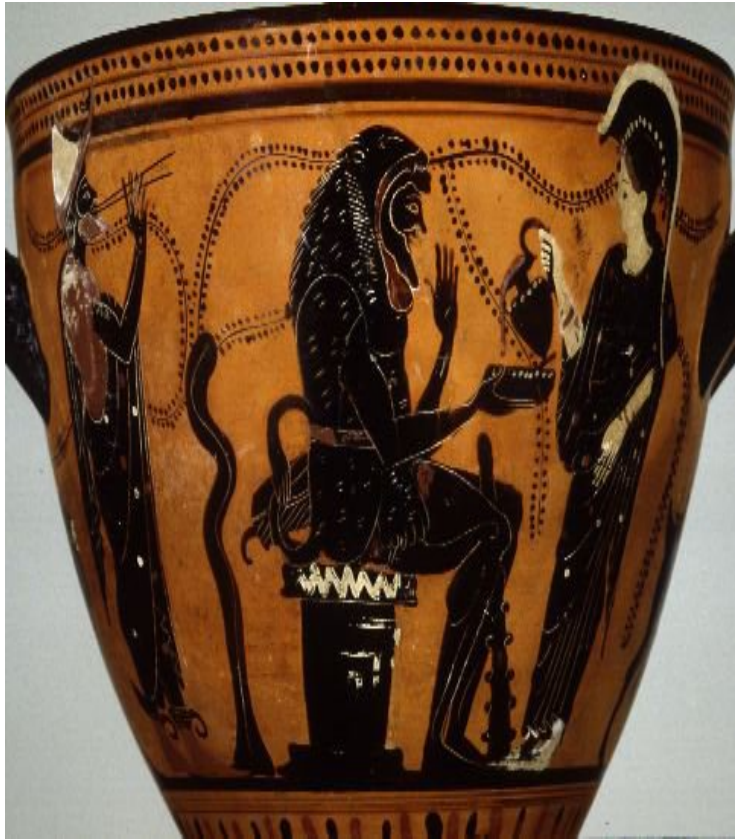
Labor V: The Augean Stables



Labor V: The Augean Stables

- Hercules' fifth labor was to clean the filthy stables of King Augeas
 - Wealthy King Augeas owned more cattle than anyone else in Greece and every night, thousands of animals were driven into the stables
- Hercules offered to clean these stables in exchange for $1/10^{\text{th}}$ of the cattle
- King Augeas happily agreed and Hercules began his work
 - First, Hercules tore two openings on opposite sides of the yard
 - Then, Hercules changed the course of two rivers, causing the river to force the mess out of the stable into the other river's flow

Labor V: The Augean Stables



- Once word got out that Eurystheus was behind the labors, Augeas refused to hand over the cattle to Hercules.
- Hercules threatened to take Augeas to court
 - The son of Augeas testified that Hercules was indeed promised the cattle
 - The son and Augeas were ordered to leave the kingdom at once
- Hercules got the cattle but Eurystheus refused to count the labor because he had therefore been paid to complete the work

Labor VI: The Stymphalian Birds



Labor VI: The Stymphalian Birds

- After his stunt at the Augean stables, Eurystheus came up with a more difficult task for Hercules
- Hercules was to drive away the huge gathering of man-eating birds that lived at a lake near the town of Stymphalos
 - Hercules had no idea how to drive away such a vast number of animals
 - Minerva came to his help, providing him with a pair of Vulcan-crafted bronze *krotala* which were noisemaking clappers
 - Using these clappers, Hercules scared the birds from the trees and shot them with a slingshot as they took flight
- He successfully scared the birds away, relieving the town of this nuisance

Labor VII: The Cretan Bull



Labor VII: The Cretan Bull

- The next labor of Hercules was to capture the bull that had captivated the wife of the king of Crete
 - King Minos, when he was coming into power, prayed for a sign from Neptune, hoping that he might send forth a good omen
 - Neptune, answering his prayers, sent a beautiful bull from the sea
 - Minos was supposed to sacrifice the bull in a gesture of gratitude toward Neptune, but instead sacrificed a different, less beautiful bull
 - Neptune, highly offended, inspired in Pasiphae, the wife of Minos, a maddened lust for the bull
 - In her lust for the animal, she mated with it and created the Minotaur, a beast that was half human, half bull

Labor VII: The Cretan Bull

- In his desire to hide the shame of his wife's misdeed, King Minos needed someone to drive the bull away from Crete
- Hercules was willing to take on the task and easily captured the bull
- He took the bull alive to King Eurystheus, then released it to wander the lands of Greece, ending up in Marathon



Labor VIII: The Horses of Diomedes



Labor VIII: The Horses of Diomedes

- After managing the Cretan bull, Eurystheus sent Hercules to go get the man-eating horses and bring them to him in Mycenae, alive
 - These horses belonged to Diomedes, a king of a Thracian tribe called the Bistones
- Once Hercules sailed to Thrace, he, along with his buddies, overpowered the men caring for the horses
 - The Bistones, realizing what had happened, attacked the group
- Hercules told a young soldier, Abderos, to take care of the horses while he fights
 - Unfortunately, the horses were stronger than young Abderos and dragged him around until his death

Labor VIII: The Horses of Diomedes



- Hercules and crew won the fight, killed Diomedes, kept the ferocious horses
 - They also founded a city in honor of Abderos, called *Abdera*
- Hercules took the horses to Eurystheus, who freed them.
- The horses wandered Greece until they reached Mount Olympus where they were eventually eaten by wild beasts
 - Some versions of the story say that Hercules tamed them and used them in his own chariot

Labor IX: The Belt of Hippolyte



Labor IX: The Belt of Hippolyte

- In Hercules' ninth labor, Eurystheus demanded that he retrieve the belt of Hippolyte as a gift for his daughter
 - Hippolyte was the queen of the Amazons, a tribe of women warriors
- This belt was bestowed upon Hippolyte by Mars, a special piece of armor that she earned for being the best warrior of the whole Amazon tribe
- Hercules and friends set out by ship to the land of the Amazons, where Queen Hippolyte greeted them
 - Hercules explained his mission and promised to hand over her belt to him
 - However, Juno, being Juno, spread the rumor that Hercules had been sent to kill the queen and inspired the women to take up their weapons

Labor IX: The Belt of Hippolyte

- The Amazons charged the ship on horseback
- Hercules, seeing their attack, killed Hippolyte and undid her belt, taking it from her
- Hercules and his crew fought the Amazons in a large battle
 - Having driven back the tribe, the men sailed away victorious
- Back at Mycenae, Hercules presented the belt to King Eurystheus



Labor X: The Cattle of Geryon



Labor X: The Cattle of Geryon

- Hercules' tenth labor was to take the cattle from the monster Geryon
 - Geryon was a monster with three heads and three sets of legs
 - His father came from the head of Medusa
 - His mother was the daughter of two Titans
- Geryon lived on an island called Erythia, near the boundary of Europe and Libya
 - There he kept his cattle, which were guarded by Cerberus' brother, Orthus, a two-headed dog and Eurytion, a herdsman
- Hercules set out for the island and in his travels killed many beasts.
 - When he came to where Europe and Libya meet, he built two mountains to commemorate this journey, one in Europe and one in Libya
 - Other accounts say that he split an already existing mountain, thus creating the Rock and the Strait of Gibraltar

Labor X: The Cattle of Geryon

- Reaching the island, Hercules was promptly attacked by Orthus and Eurytion, and he bashed them both with his club
- Geryon approached, too, but Hercules shot him with his arrows
- Killing Geryon was the easy part; getting the cattle back to Mycenae was the difficult part
 - First, the sons of Neptune tried to steal them
 - Then a bull got loose and swam to Sicily, joining a neighboring herd
 - Hercules had to fight to get it back
 - Then the monster Cacus stole a few
 - Then Hera, thinking the labor too easy, sent a gadfly after the cattle which led them to scatter themselves
- When he had finally regathered the cattle, Hercules gave the cattle to Eurystheus who sacrificed them to Juno

Labor XI: The Apples of the Hesperides



Labor XI: The Apples of the Hesperides

- For his ninth labor, Hercules was to gather Jupiter's golden apples, which had been given to him as a wedding gift from Juno
 - The apples were kept in a garden at the northern edge of the world
 - The apples were guarded by a hundred-headed dragon named Ladon and the Hesperides, the daughters of Atlas
- In his journey seeking the garden, Hercules met up with Prometheus
 - He killed the eagle that had been feasting on his liver for thirty years
 - In his gratitude, Prometheus encouraged Hercules to speak with Atlas
 - Atlas hated holding the world so much that if Hercules offered to take over, Atlas would help him obtain the apples

Labor XI: The Apples of the Hesperides

- Atlas went to retrieve the apples, with Hercules holding the weight of the world on his shoulders
 - When Atlas returned, he offered to bring the apples to Eurystheus himself while Hercules held the world for the rest of the time
 - Hercules “agreed”, but only if he would be allowed to put some padding on first
 - Atlas set down the apples and took back the world. Hercules picked up the apples and ran off, avoiding the trick that Atlas would have played on him
- Hercules hurried to Eurystheus, delivering the apples to him
 - However, the apples could not belong to a mortal
 - Hercules brought them to Minerva, who later returned them to their original resting place in the garden

Labor XII: Cerberus



Labor XII: Cerberus

- In the final, most dangerous labor of Hercules, he was ordered to travel to the Underworld and kidnap Cerberus, the three-headed guardian.
 - King Eurystheus thought for sure that Hercules would never come back from this labor
- Hercules entered the Underworld, encountering many monsters and ghosts.
- He approached Pluto, who told Hercules that he may indeed take Cerberus, but only if he used brute strength: no weapons and no interventions

Labor XII: Cerberus



- Weaponless, Hercules wrestled the dog to the ground and dragged him to Eurystheus
- However, unlike the other monsters Hercules had slaughtered, Cerberus was returned to his Underworldly duties, where he resumed guarding the gateway to Hades

Beyond the Labors

- After completing the twelfth and final labor, Hercules was absolved of the murder of his family
 - However, he was not yet granted immortality because he needed to live out his life as a mortal first
- Hercules went on to have many more adventures
 - He joined Jason and his Argonauts in the hunt for the Golden Fleece
 - Saved the princess of Troy, Hesione, from a sea monster
 - Helped Jupiter defeat the race of Giants in a battle over Olympus
 - Wrestled and defeated the river Achelous
- Hercules also met and fell in love with Deianira, taking her as his wife

Beyond the Labors

- To celebrate his returning from yet another adventure, Deianira wove him a cloak.
 - She covered this cloak with a magic balm, given to her by a centaur, that she was told would make its wearer love her forever
 - However, the formula instead contained a burning poison
- When Hercules tried on the cloak, it burned his skin, causing him excruciating pain. When he tried to remove the cloak, the pain burned deeper and harder



Beyond the Labors



- Hercules begged to be taken out of his misery and brought to death.
 - Hercules asked his friends and family to build him a pyre on top of Mount Oeta
 - He laid on the pyre and had his friends light the flames
- Watching the spectacle from Olympus, Jupiter convinced Juno that the suffering of Hercules had been enough and that he deserved his spot on Mount Olympus
 - Minerva retrieved burning Hercules from the pyre and carried him to Olympus in her chariot, where he began his immortal life