

Knowledge Builders™

for *Perseus*® 2.0

**Homer's *Iliad* & *Odyssey***

Wendy E. Owens



**AbleMedia**



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for *Perseus*® 2.0

## Homer's *Iliad* & *Odyssey*

Wendy E. Owens

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### About Knowledge Builders

Knowledge Builders are step-by-step instructions for expanding your knowledge of the *Perseus* software and the ancient Greek world. Each Knowledge Builder addresses a particular topic related to the ancient Greek world. Knowledge Builders provide students and teachers with start up information on a topic and directions for finding information available on that topic in *Perseus*.

- Knowledge Builders assume that you have completed the assignments of the Quick Start System™ or that you have a working knowledge of *Perseus* and a Macintosh.
- Knowledge Builders give you a start on investigations of various topics related to the main Knowledge Builder topic(s). Look for “Possible Projects” in the text of the Knowledge Builder for ideas on how to turn ideas and investigative processes into a project.
- Each Knowledge Builder provides you with a list of Further Reference in *Perseus* for topics related to the main topic of the Knowledge Builder.
- Each Knowledge Builder provides you with an annotated bibliography of works relating to the main topics associated with the title of the Knowledge Builder.
- Knowledge Builders make an effort to use Vase, Coin, Site, Sculpture and Architecture Catalog cards in which Universal Images can be found. By using these Catalog cards, Concise version users can see large images and will learn which Catalog cards use Universal Images.
- Knowledge Builders get you started using *Perseus* and get you thinking with a large academic database. The methods for investigation used in Knowledge Builders are suggestions and other methods may be applied. You must come up with your own methods for making the most efficient use of *Perseus*.



# Homer

## Encyclopedia

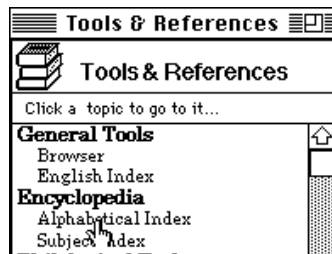
Who was Homer? Why did he compose the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*? Where did these stories come from? Which poem was written first? The answers to these questions can be found in the Encyclopedia entry on Homer along with other information on the composition of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, the importance and influence of these poems on ancient Greek myths and history and a bibliography of modern works that discuss the poems.

The influence of Homeric poems on ancient Greek history and mythology was tremendous. The Homeric version of the Trojan war and associated myths became the “gospel” of ancient Greek history from which the ancient Greeks took their heritage. Scan the Encyclopedia entry on Homer, note the section on the “Importance and Influence of the Homeric Poems” for its description of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*’s impact on the Greek world.

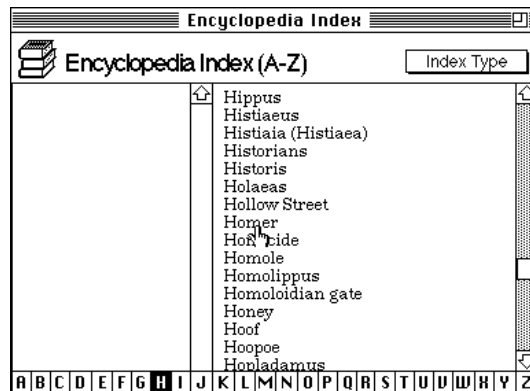
1. Click once on the “Tools & Reference” icon on the Gateway.



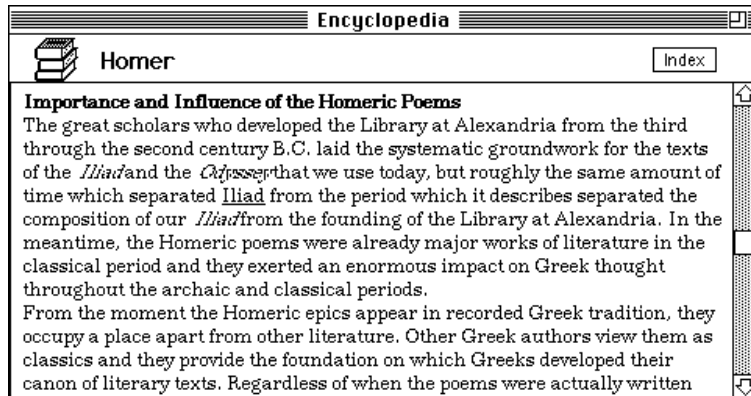
2. Under the bold “Encyclopedia” heading, click once on “Alphabetical Index.”



3. Click once on the letter “H” from the alphabet at the bottom of the card.
4. Scroll through the list of “H” words until you find “Homer.” Click once on the word “Homer.”



5. Scroll through the Encyclopedia entry for Homer until you reach the heading “Importance and Influence of the Homeric Poems.”



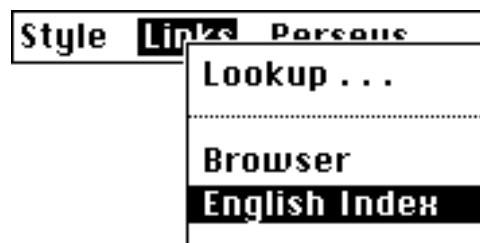
6. Read this passage.

## English Index Search

From reading the information found in the Encyclopedia entry on Homer, you will have learned not only about the poet but also about the “Homeric style” of writing stemming from the oral tradition of ancient Greek poetry. One important aspect of this tradition is the use of formulaic expressions that are used repeatedly throughout the text. Beginning with the *Iliad*, examples of these formulaic expressions are easily found even in the first few lines of the text.

To find an example of a formulaic phrase, perform an English Index Search for “Achilles”. Then look at the first few citations to see if you can establish a pattern of words or adjectives used in connection with Achilles.

7. Choose “English Index” from the Links menu.



8. Move the arrow onto dotted line next to “Look for.” Click once on the mouse button to set cursor (|).
9. Type the word “Achilles” next to the words “Look for.”
10. Choose “Homer” from the pop-up menu button next to “Show List at.”
11. Choose “Exact Match” from the pop-up menu button next to “Position.”



12. Move the mouse arrow onto the “Do Search” button and click once. It will take a few seconds to complete the search.

13. The results of the search will appear in the search results space.
14. Look at the first five or six citations for similar uses of an adjective or phrased used to describe Achilles.
15. Highlight a textual citation then click once on the “Go there” command button.

16. Click once on the “Go Back” arrow to return to your Achilles search.

You will notice that “swift-footed” is used six times in Book 1 as an epithet for Achilles. Further investigation would also show that “brilliant Achilles” is used three times in the first book of the *Iliad* and “swift-footed brilliant Achilles” is used once in Book 1, line 121.

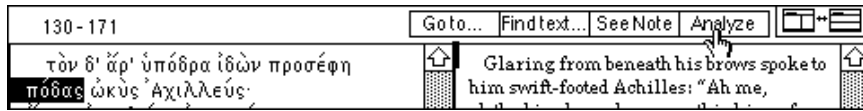
For a list of citations for the use of one of the Greek phrase used above, follow the directions below on the use of the Greek Word Search.

17. Highlight “Hom. Il. 1.146” then click once on the “Go there” command button.

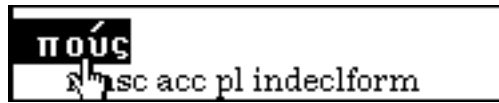
18. Highlight the Greek word shown below from Book 1, line 146. Use the figure below as a guide.



19. Click once on the "Analyze" command button.



20. Click once on the dictionary form of the word. See below.



21. Choose "Greek Word Search" from the pop-up menu under "Related Tools."



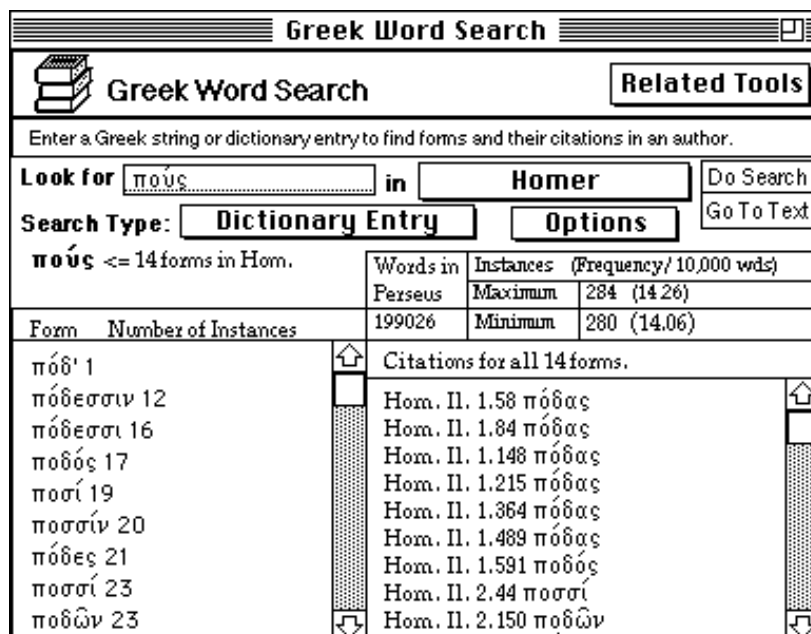
The current setting of the Greek Word Search stack on your computer will determine if this search works the first time or if you will have to reset the search settings and try again.

22. Set the pop-up menu next to "in" to "Homer."

23. Set the pop-up menu next to "Type of Search" to "Dictionary Entry."

24. Click once on the command button "Do Search."

25. The results of the search will appear in the search results space.



26. Scroll to the bottom of the list of forms and look at the number of times the final word is used in the Homeric texts.

Form	Number of Instances
πόδες	21
ποσσί	23
ποδῶν	23
ποσίν	30
ποδί	4 †
ποδοῖν	6
πόδα	7
πόδας	85

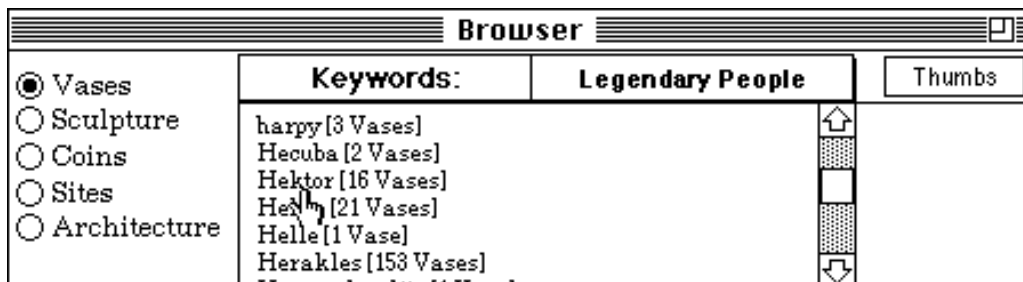
A listing of each time this form is used in the Homeric text appears in the right column. If you want to find out if this form of "foot" is associated exclusively with Achilles, you will have to look at each of the 85 citations.

Formulaic phrases may be discern for other characters in Homer's epics by following the same methods of discovery applied above. If you do not want to look at the Greek and are only interested in the English translation of formulaic phrases and epitaphs, use the English Index. The English Index will provide you with a list of citations in Homer for one word from a formulaic phrase or epitaph.

## Vases

Vase painter found their inspiration and themes for their vases in Homer's stories. The Muses worked through the painters who used the information and mythology from the Iliad and the Odyssey to recreate the stories in pictures. Some of these vase paintings illustrate the antagonistic relationship between Achilles and Hector throughout the *Iliad*. Follow the directions below to read the story of Achilles and Hector through pictures.

27. Choose "Browser" from the Links menu.
28. Click once inside the radial button next to "Vases."
29. Choose "Keywords" from the first pop-up menu button.
30. Choose "Legendary People" from the second pop-up menu button.
31. From the list of "Legendary People," choose "Hector."



32. In the list of vase, click once on “Munich 1426.”

Name	Period	Summary
Harvard 1972.40 [18 images]	Archaic	Ransom of Hektor
London B 76 [3 images]	Archaic	Hektor's chariot
Malibu 83. A.E. 362 [5 images]	Late Archaic	Tondo: Death of Priam. Zone: Ilioupersis. A: I
Mississippi 1977.3.99 [23 images]	Classical	Side A: Hektor (?) arming. Side B: Priam (?).
Munich 1426 [8 images]	Archaic	Side A: Achilles and Hektor fighting over body
Philadelphia 30-44-4 [27 images]	Classical	Side A: the Departure of Hektor. Side B: depart

33. You will now be at the Catalog card for “Munich 1426.”

34. Look at the image “Side A: Achilles and Hektor fighting over the body of Troilos” by clicking once on these words in the Views section.

**Vase Catalog**

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**Munich 1426** Thumbs Description

Index

**Collection:** Munich, Antikensammlungen

**Ware:** Attic Black Figure      **Shape:** Tyrrhenian amphora

**Decoration:** Side A: Achilles and Hektor fighting over body of Troilos. Side B: animal friezes.

**Painter:** attributed to the Tyrrhenian Group

**Potter:**

**Date:** ca. 565 BC-ca. 550 BC      **Period:** Archaic

---

**Views** (Click on a view to see the image)      **Number of Views:** 8

- Side B: overview
- Handle: right of side B
- Handle: right of side A
- Side A: Achilles and Hektor fighting over body of Troilos
- Side A: Achilles and Hektor fighting over body of Troilos
- Side A: Hermes, Athena, and Achilles
- Side A: Achilles, Troilos, altar, and Hektor

35. Close the image.

36. Click once on the “Go Back” arrow on your Navigator.



37. In the list of vase, click once on “Boston 63.473.”

Vases: Keyworded as Hektor		Page: 1 of 1
		16 Vases
Name	Period	Summary
Boston 63.473 [3 images]	Archaic	Achilles dragging Hektor past the tomb of Patroclus
Cleveland 71.46 [0 images]	Archaic	Surface of rim: frieze of warriors and mythology

38. You will now be at the Catalog card for “Boston 63.473.”



39. Look at the image “Main panel: Achilles dragging Hector past the tomb of Patroklos” by clicking once on these words in the Views section.

Views (Click on a view to see the image)	Number of Views: 3
Main panel: Achilles dragging Hector past the tomb of Patroklos	↑
Main Panel: Priam and Hekabe, Achilles and Hektor	
Shoulder: Herakles pursuing Kyknos, aided by Athena and Zeus	

40. Click once on the “Go Back” arrow on your Navigator.  
 41. In the list of vase, click once on “Harvard 1972.40.”

Name	Period	Summary
Boston 63.473 [3 images]	Archaic	Achilles dragging Hektor past the tomb of Patroklos
Cleveland 71.46 [0 image]	Archaic	Surface of rim: frieze of warriors and mythological figures
Florence 4209 [72 images]	Archaic	In six registers: the Wedding of Peleus and Thetis
Harvard 1972.40 [18 images]	Archaic	Ransom of Hektor
London B 76 [8 images]	Archaic	Hektor's chariot

42. You will now be at the Catalog card for “Harvard 1972.40.”  
 43. Look at the image “Shoulder: Ransom of Hector” by clicking once on these words in the Views section.

Further demonstrations of Homer’s influence on the depiction of mythological and legendary stories on vases will be made in the following sections.

## Historical Overview

The word “Homer” appears many times in the text of the Historical Overview. For example, Homer is mentioned in reference to “the nature of the gods” and “the recovery of writing.”

44. Choose “Historical Overview” from the pop-up menu under Links.  
 45. Scroll down to the outline topic "4.9 The Recovery of Writing and Homer."  
 46. Click once on the words “4.9 The Recovery of Writing and Homer.”

Historical Overview TOC	
Thomas R. Martin, An Overview of Classical Greek History TOC	
Click a line to read that section of the Essay.	
4. Remaking Greek Civilization	↑
4.1. The Start of Economic Revival	
4.2. Technological Change: Using Iron	
4.3. Agricultural Resurgence	
4.4. Repopulation	
4.5. The Definition of Aristocracy	
4.6. Homer and the Social Values of Greek Aristocrats	
4.7. The Male Ethic	
4.8. A Woman’s Excellence	
4.9. The Recovery of Writing and Homer	
4.10. The Olympic Games of Zeus and Hera	



This subtopic card discusses “Homer’s” role in the composition of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.

47. Read the information looking for a reference to Homer.
48. Click once on “See Links/Lock Text” if the command button below the “Table of Contents” command button reads, “See Links/Lock Text” to see the linked information in the paragraph.
49. Move the mouse arrow onto the word “Homer, “ hold down the mouse button and highlight “Thuc. 1.3.3 [Text].”

4. Remaking Greek Civilization  
4.9. The Recovery of Writing and Homer

The Greeks had relearned the technology of writing as a result of contact with the literate civilizations of the Near East and the alphabet developed there long before. Sometime between about 950 and 750 the Greeks modified a Phoenician alphabet to represent the sounds of their own language, and the Greek version of the alphabet eventually formed the base of the alphabet used for English today. Greeks of the Archaic Age (roughly, the period from 750 to 500 B.C.) swiftly applied their newly acquired skill to write down oral literature, such as the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. The Greeks believed that Homer, a blind poet from the Greek region called Ionia (today the western coast

Hdt. 2.53.2 [Text]  
Thuc. 1.3.3 [Text]  
Other refs. to Homer [Encyclopedial]

50. Read what Thucydides says about Homer, his time of birth and place of origin.

[3] The best proof of this is furnished by **Homer**. Born long after the Trojan war, he nowhere calls all of them by that name, nor indeed any of them except the followers of Achilles from Phthiotis, who were the original Hellenes: in his poems they are called Danaans, Argives, and Achaeans. He does not even use the term barbarian, probably because the Hellenes had not yet been marked off from the rest of the world by one distinctive appellation.

51. Click once on the “Go Back” arrow on your Navigator.

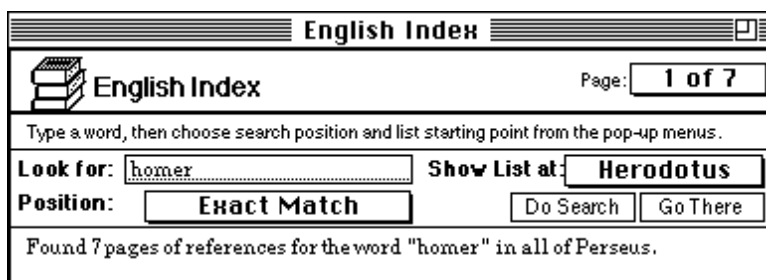
Homer’s heroes share many mental and physical attributes with the gods with whom they were often in direct contact and to whom they were related. Both modern historians and Homer align the anthropomorphic attitude of the gods to that of human beings: slights to personal honor are not taken lightly. Look at the Historical Overview subtopic, “10.1.1 The Nature of the Gods” on your own.



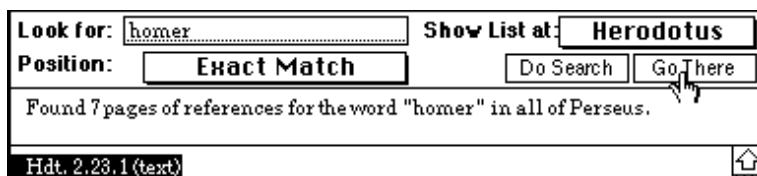
## Primary Text

Even though Homer's stories shaped many ancient Greek myths and historical traditions, not everyone subscribed to the Homeric writings as the truth or a legitimate interpretation the gods, nature or ancient Greek history. Herodotus discounts Homer's description of the geographic make-up of the world and offers his own opinion based on his travels.

52. Do an English Index Search for the word "Homer" in "Herodotus."



53. Highlight "Hdt. 2.23.1" and click once on the "Go there" command button.



54. Read Herodotus' opinion of Homer's geographic knowledge.

For Homer's description of the ocean as the source of all rivers and seas and as flowing in a circle around the world see the *Iliad*, Book 18, line 489, and Book 21, line 195.

55. Click once on the Go Back arrow to return to your "Homer" search in Herodotus.

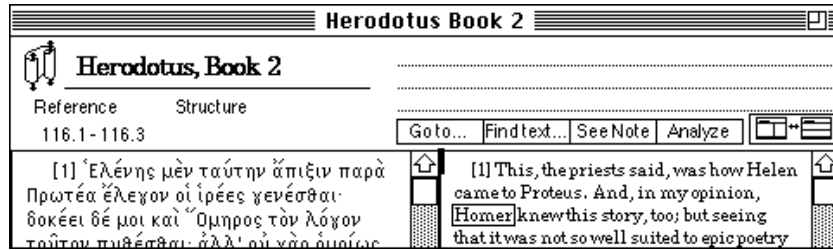
In another example, Herodotus purports that his is the real story of Helen and her own wanderings to return to Menelaos. Some how Herodotus has concluded that Homer knew the real story but that he chose not to use it since it was no the stuff of which epics were made.

56. Highlight "Hdt. 2.116.1" and click once on the "Go there" command button to read Herodotus' version of the story.



**Remember, give *Perseus* something to do and then give it a command.**

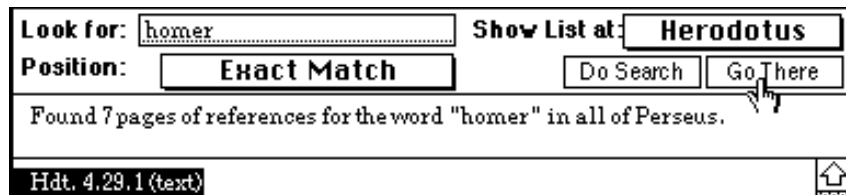




Herodotus does agree with Homer on an issue of animal husbandry. In his account of Libyan lambs who, it is agreed, were born with horns on their heads Herodotus gives Homer some credit. Lamb's horn are not a point of great contention for ancient Greek authors but at least Herodotus agrees with Homer on something.

57. Click once on the Go Back arrow to return to your "Homer" search in Herodotus.

58. Highlight "Hdt. 4.29.1" to read about the lambs born with horns.



# Iliad

## Atlas

As you read the *Iliad* you learn that the main characters are the chieftains of the men who have come to Troy to aid in the rescue of Helen. They have come together as the result of an alliance pact made between the main characters and Menelaos to fight a war that will last ten years .

To better understand the distances these men have traveled to participate in the sack of Troy it is necessary to plot the sites from which each king and his men came on the Atlas map. Plot the following sites (in bold letters), note who came from each site:

Agamemnon, Menelaus and the Achaeans - **Mycenae**.

Nestor and the Pylians - **Pylos**.

Odysseus and the Ithacans- **Ithaca**.

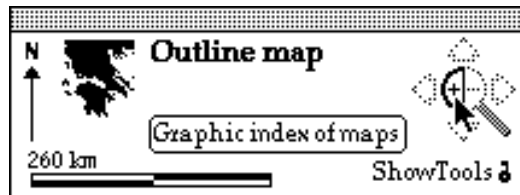
Ajax and the Salimians- **Salamis**.

Priam, Hector, Paris and the Trojans - **Troy**.

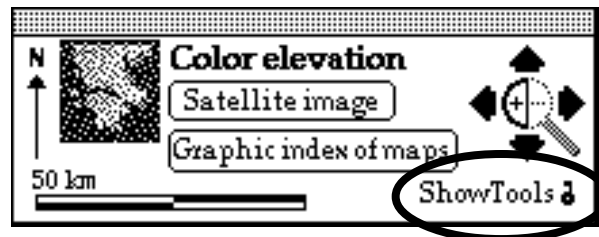
Achilles and the Myrmidons - **Phthia**, a region in central Greece.

Where the expedition of Greeks set off for Troy - **Aulis**.

1. Choose "Atlas" from the Links menu.
2. You should now be at the "Outline" map of the *Perseus* Atlas.
3. Click once on the plus sign (+) in the rosette to zoom-in closer to the map.



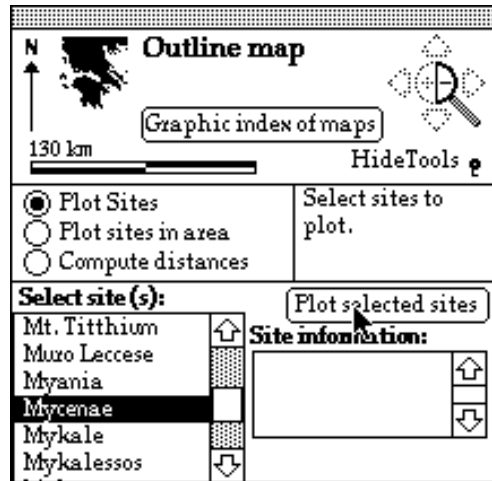
4. Move your mouse arrow onto the "flag" next to "Show Tools" in the lower right corner of the Tools Palette.
5. Click once on the flag so that the bottom drops out of the Tools Palette.



6. Move the Atlas Tools Palette to one side of the Atlas map.



7. Click once inside the radial button next to "Plot Sites."
8. Scroll down through the site list to "Mycenae."
9. Click once "Mycenae" so that it is highlighted.
10. Click once on the command button "Plot Selected Sites."

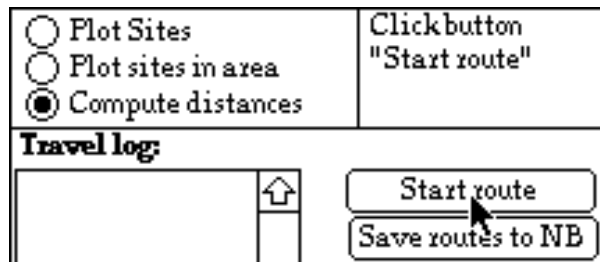


**When you plot a site and it seems not to appear on the screen it may be hiding under the Atlas Tools Palette or Navigator. Check there before you worry.**

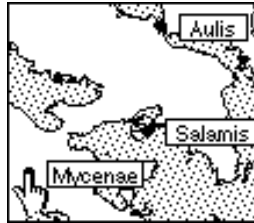
11. Follow the same steps to plot the remaining sites from the list above except for Phthia.

To see how far each group of men had to travel to reach Aulis, use the compute distance tool.

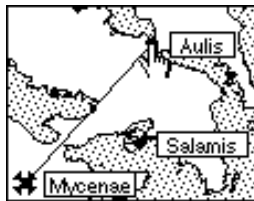
12. Click once inside the radial button next to "Compute Distance."
13. Read the directions flashing in the "Directions Box."
14. Click once on the "Start Route" command button.



- Click once on the black dot (•) next to “Mycenae” so that an “X” appears at this point.



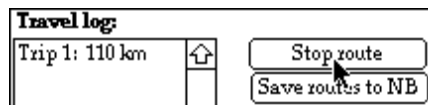
- Click once on the black dot (•) next to “Aulis.”



**If you get the message, “Not enough memory to use the painting tools,” click “OK.” This means that there is not enough RAM allotted for the use of *Perseus* or that you have used the allotted amount up. Quit *Perseus* and check your RAM allotment and start *Perseus* again.**

The total distance and the last distance traveled will be computed and displayed in the information box. The computed distance should be around 111 kilometer. This distance will vary slightly depending on the precision of the click on the black dot (•).

- Click once on the “Stop Route” command button on the Tools Palette.



- Follow the same directions to measure the distances between Aulis and the other sites.

The *Iliad's* Book 2, line 484, begins the catalog of ships listing the captains of the ships that sailed to Troy along with Agamemnon. The catalog mentions the sites from which these ships and their captains came. Below are a few sites to plot from the catalog of ships.

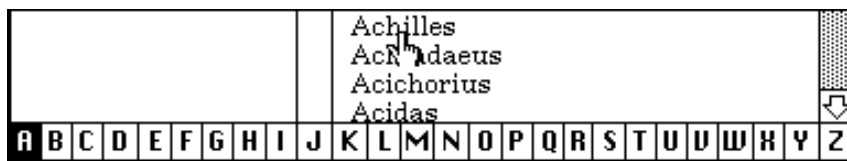
Anthedon, Athens, Corinth, Araithyrea, Sikyon, Hyria, Schoinous, Mykalessos, Harma, Erythrae, Medeon, Nisa, Orchomenos, Panopeos, Eutresis, Thisbe, Plataea, Glisas, Hyampolis and Daulis.



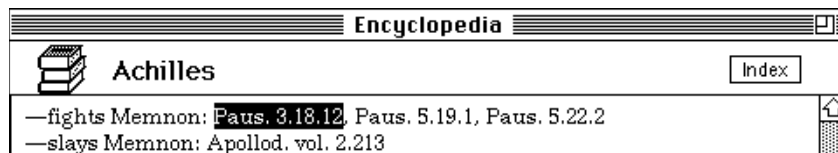
## Encyclopedia & Primary Text

A brief account of the events of the *Iliad* can be found in the Encyclopedia entry for Achilles. Apollodorus, Pausanias and Herodotus have recounted many of the most important event of Achilles actions in their writings and the Encyclopedia references to their text read like cliff notes. Look at the Encyclopedia entry for Achilles.

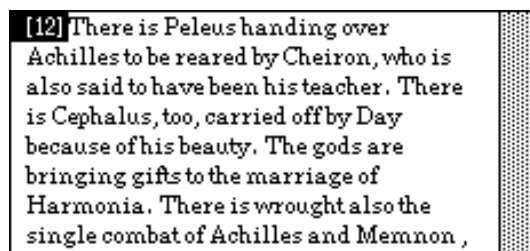
19. Choose "Encyclopedia" from the Links menu.
20. Click once on the letter "A" from the alphabet at the bottom of the card.
21. Scroll through the list of "A" words until you find "Achilles." Click once on the word "Achilles."



22. You should now be at the Encyclopedia entry for "Achilles."
23. Highlight "Paus. 3.18.12" next to the note "—fights Memnon."



24. With a textual citation highlighted, choose "Primary Text" from the "Links" menu at the top of your screen.
25. You should now be at Pausanias' *Guide to Greece*, Book 3, section 18.12.
26. Read section 18.12 and find the reference to the fight between Memnon and Achilles.



27. To get back to the Encyclopedia entry for Achilles, click once on the "Go Back" arrow on your Navigator.

**Possible Project:** A comparison of Apollodorus' recounting of events from the *Iliad* between Homer's telling might yield surprising results. How closely does Apollodorus stick to the story?

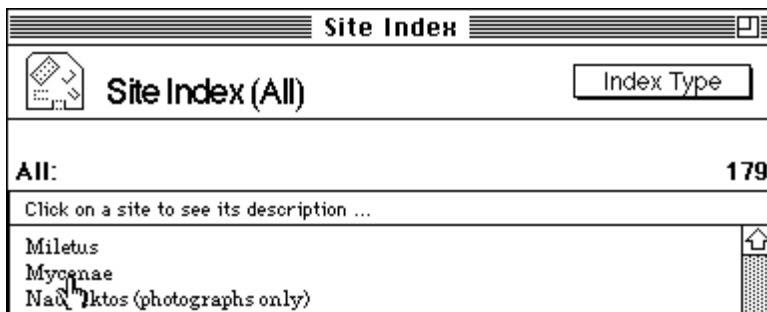


## Sites and Architecture

Site Catalog and Description cards exist for the sites of Mycenae, Pylos, Troy, and Salamis from which the Greek leaders hailed. A look at each site and its associated building will give you an idea of what each leader's royal residence and homeland looked like.

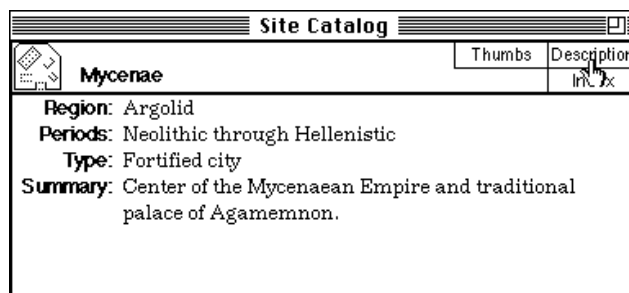
The importance of Mycenae is glorified by Homer's account of the Trojan War since the leader of the Greeks, or Achaeans as they are otherwise known, was the king of Mycenae, Agamemnon. His home was the palace at Mycenae. Follow the directions below to see this site.

28. Choose "Sites" from the Links menu.
29. You will now be at the Sites Index card.
30. From the Index pop-up menu, choose "All."
31. Click once on "Mycenae."

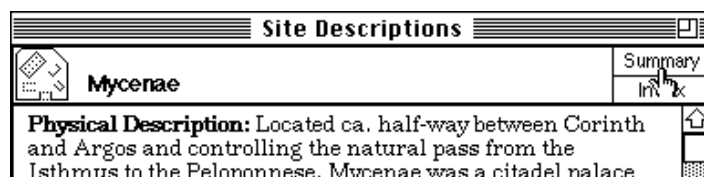


Before you look at the view for the site, you will want some background information on it.

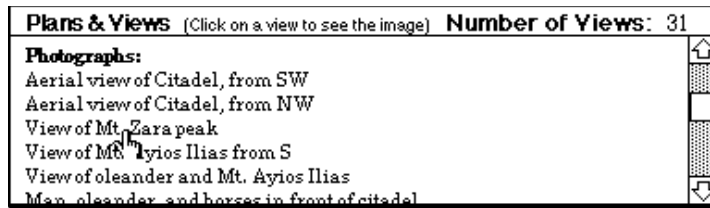
32. Click once on the "Description" command button in the top right corner.



33. Read this description. Go back to the summary card by clicking once on the "Summary" command button.



34. Look at the images for this site.

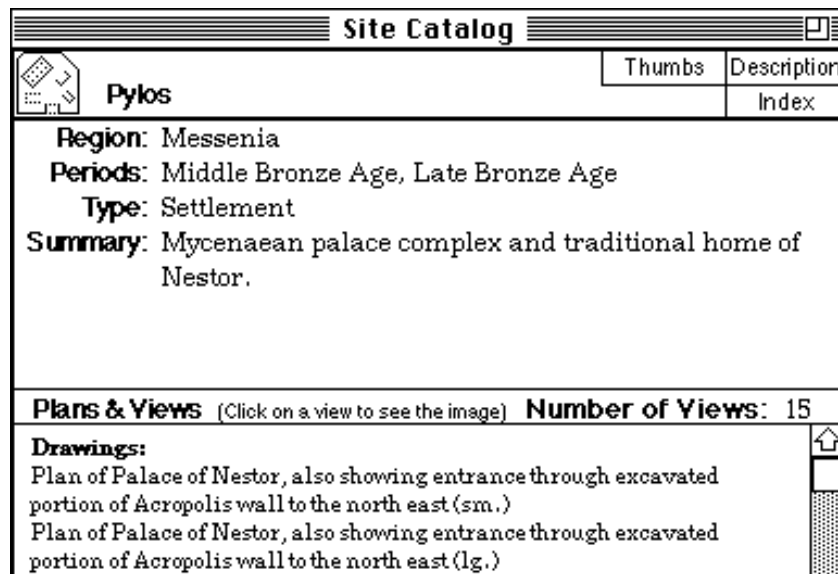


One of the chief advisors to the Greeks was the wise and elderly Nestor whose home was on Pylos. Pylos can be found in the region of Messenia. Find “Pylos” in the list of sites in the Site Index. Read the description of this site for more information on its structure and historical importance.

35. Click once on the “Index” command button.

36. Click once on “Pylos.”

Before you look at the view for the site, you will want some background information on it.



37. Click once on the “Description” command button in the top right corner.

38. Read this description. Go back to the summary card by clicking once on the “Summary” command button.

39. Look at the images for this site.

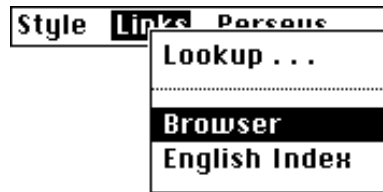
Use the “Lookup” Link in *Perseus* to find the Site Catalog card for Salamis, the home of the second best Greek warrior, Ajax. Take a look at the site of Salamis, in the region of the Saronic Gulf, on your own. The site catalog for Salamis does not include sites plans but there are 15 views of the site.



## Vases

Going back before the Greeks sailed to Troy you find the reason for their sailing, an abduction. Homer assumes his audience is aware of Helen's abduction by Paris, or Alexander as he is also known. Paris was allowed to abduct Helen as the result of his judging Aphrodite to be the most beautiful among the goddesses. The judgment of Paris is depicted on the vase, Munich 2439.

40. Choose "Browser" from the Links menu.

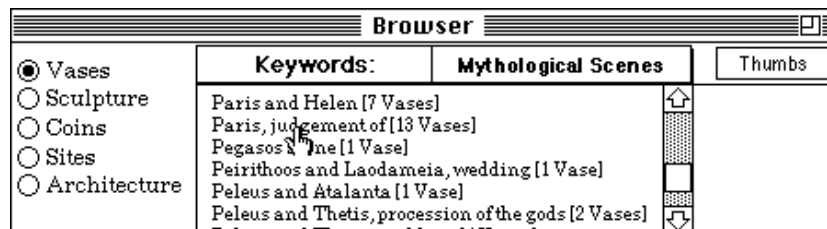


41. Click once inside the radial button next to "Vases."

42. Choose "Keywords" from the first pop-up menu button.

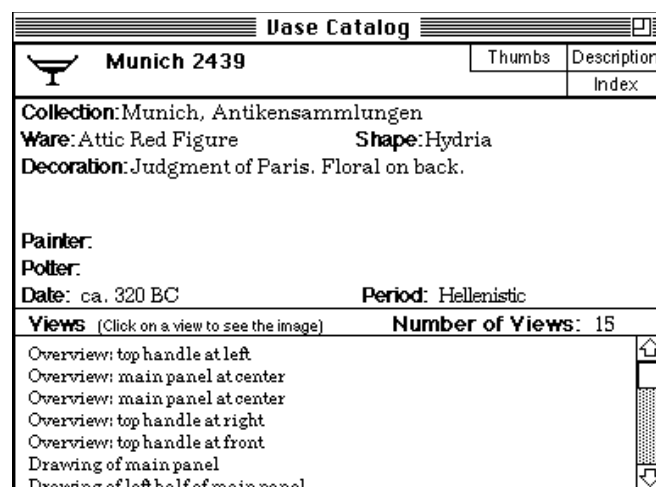
43. Choose "Mythological Scenes" from the second pop-up menu button.

44. From the list of "Mythological Scenes," choose "Paris, judgment of of."



45. From the list of , click once on "Munich 2439."

46. You will now be at the Catalog card for "Munich 2439."



47. Look at the image(s) for this vase.



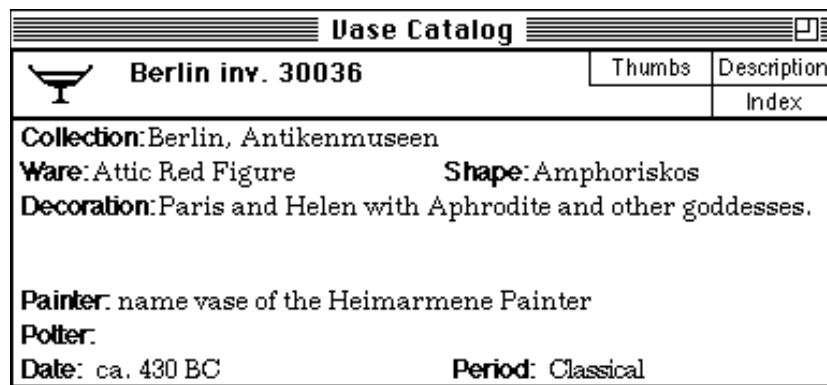
There is a vase in *Perseus* that depicts Helen’s abduction and offers an artist’s impression of what Helen, Paris, Priam and Menelaos might have looked like. Look at the images for the vase Berlin inv. 30036. Use the “Lookup” Link to go to the Vase Catalog card.

48. Select “Lookup” from the pop-up menu under Links.

49. Type “Berlin inv. 30036” into the Lookup box and choose “Vases” from the pop-up menu under Links.



50. Look at the image(s) for this vase.



**Remember, close each image after you have finished looking at it.**

Now use the Browser and its Keyword searches to find vases depicting scenes from the *Iliad*. Choose “Keywords” and “Mythical Scenes” from the top two pop-up menu buttons. Scroll through the list of Mythical Scenes, you won’t have to go too far to find vases depicting Achilles’ exploits from the *Iliad*.

**Possible Project:** Find the vases that tell the story of the *Iliad*. Compare the depictions of various scenes from the *Iliad* with the actual text. How closely do the artist follow Homer’s story?

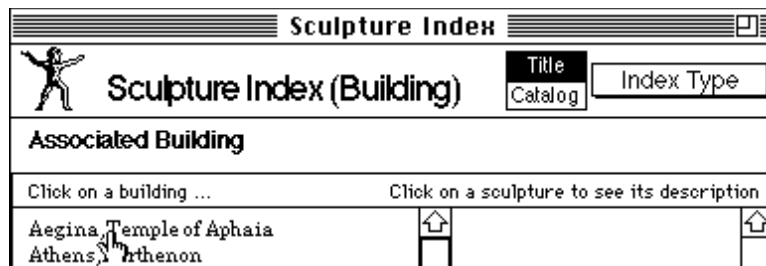
A list of other vases depicting characters and their exploits from both the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* can be found in the **Further References** section of this Knowledge Builder or by doing a Browser Search.



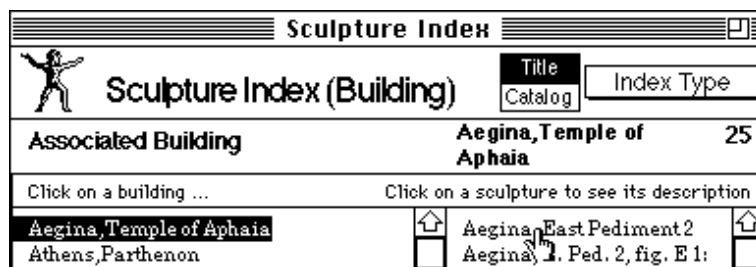
## Sculpture

Apollodorus describes an early battle between the Greeks and Trojans in his *Library* in which both Herakles and a young Nestor participate, a story not described by Homer. A depiction of this battle can be found in the sculpture from Aegina, “East Pediment 2: First Battle of Greeks and Trojans”.

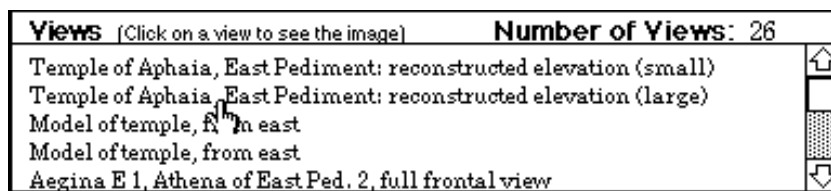
51. Choose “Sculpture” from the pop-up menu under Links.
52. Choose index by “Associated Building” and click once on “Aegina, Temple of Aphaia.”



53. Click once on “Aegina, East Pediment 2” to see the catalog card for this sculpture.



54. Look at the reconstructions and views for this sculpture.



The descriptions tells of Athena’s presents and how in this earlier battle even Herakles was involved when he came to Troy to save the daughter of King Laomedon. This piece of art demonstrates an alternative interpretation and/or version of the story of the Trojan War.

55. Click once on the “Description” command button in the top right corner of the card to read the description.

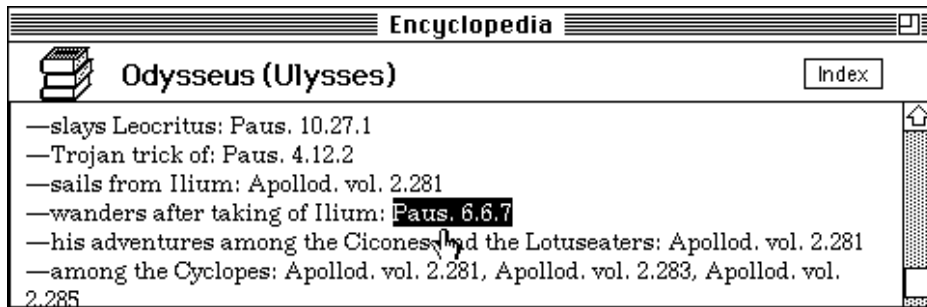


# Odyssey

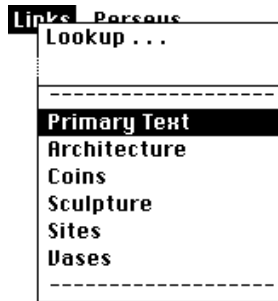
## Encyclopedia

The basic facts behind the composition of the *Odyssey* can be found in the Encyclopedia entry for Homer. The *Odyssey* is presumed to have been written after the *Iliad* and it shares in its formulaic expressions. Since the *Odyssey* is a story about Odysseus, the Encyclopedia entry on Odysseus gives you a brief overview of the events of the story.

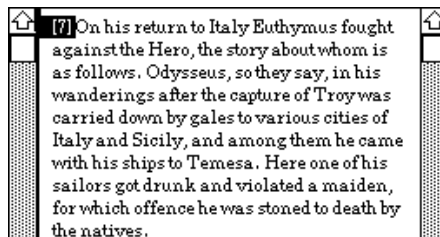
1. Choose “Encyclopedia” from the Links menu.
2. Go to the Encyclopedia entry for “Odysseus (Ulysses).”
3. Highlight “Paus. 6.6.7” next to the note “—wanders after taking of Ilium.”



4. With a textual citation highlighted, choose “Primary Text” from the “Links” menu at the top of your screen.



5. You should now be at Pausanias' *Guide to Greece*, Book 6, section 6.7.
6. Read section 6.7 and find the reference to Odysseus.



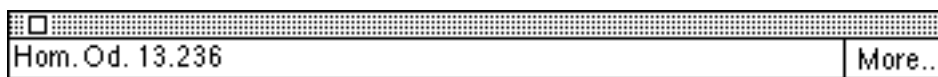
7. To get back to the Encyclopedia entry for Odysseus, click once on the “Go Back” arrow on your Navigator.



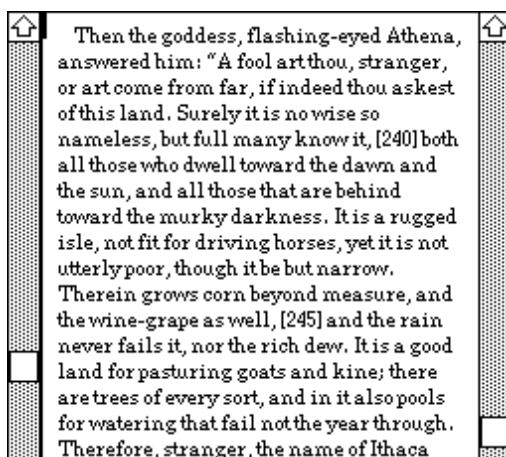
## Primary Text

A leader of men, wily, cunning and comparable to Zeus in his wits, Odysseus hailed from the island of Ithaca (Ithaka). Read Athena's description of the island in Book 13, line 236, of the *Odyssey*.

8. Select "Lookup" from the pop-up menu under Links.
9. Type "Hom. Od. 13.236" into the box and highlight "Primary Text" from the pop-up menu under Links.



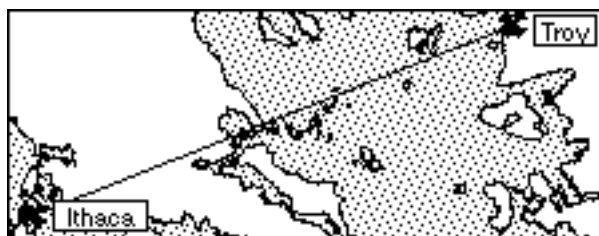
10. Begin reading this passage from line 236.



## Atlas

Odysseus' journey home took him both far from the island of Ithaca and beyond the physical world. Few of the sites that he visited can be plotted in the Atlas because they are either imaginary. You can get an idea of the distance Odysseus should only have had to travel to get home, though.

11. Plot the sites of Ithaca and Troy.
12. Using the directions from above, measure the distance between the two sites.



The following list of sites are estimations of where the imaginary sites in the *Odyssey* might be.



**Island of the Lotus Eaters**, island of Djerba off of Tunisia; **Island of the Cyclopes**, western edge of Sicily; **Aiaia**, Circe's Island, Monte Cicero, north of Terracina; **Scylla and Charybdis**, narrowest point between Sicily and Italy; **Ogygia**, Calypso's island, below the heel of Italy.\*

**Possible Project:** Using the text of the *Odyssey*, make estimates as to the location of the other imaginary sites to which Odysseus traveled. Use other text in *Perseus*, i.e., Strabo, to support your findings. Provide a map showing the imaginary locations.

\*The source for these site locations is "Odysseus' Route" by Ramond V. Schoder, *The Classical Journal*, February - March, 1987.

## Vases

Odysseus met-up with some strange creatures on his trip home from Troy. Such creatures as the Cyclops, Scylla and the Sirens appear on vases and coins as decoration and tell the story of Odysseus' attempt to return to Ithaca. The story of the blinding of the Cyclops and the escape from his cave is told on two vases in *Perseus*.

13. From the Links menu, choose "Vases" by highlighting the word.

14. You should now be at the Vase Index card.

15. From the Index menu, choose "Collection."

A list of all the vase collections in *Perseus* will now appear on the left side of the card.

16. From this list, choose "British Museum, London."

17. A list of vases will appear in the right column. Choose "London 1947.7-14.18" from the list.



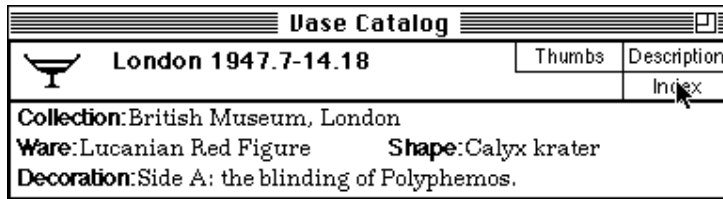
18. You should now be at the Vase Catalog card for "London 1947.7-14.18."

19. Look at the views for this vase.

Does the depiction of the blinding of the Cyclops match Homer's description of the blinding?



20. Go back to the Vase Index by clicking once on the “Index” command button.



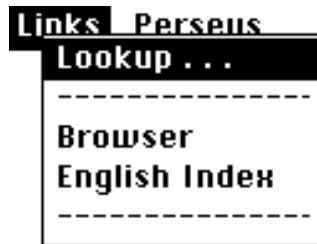
21. Look at the vase, Toledo 1927.97, to see how Odysseus and his men escaped the Cyclops’ cave.

For a list of other vases on which Odysseus’ foes are depicted, do a Browser Search for Sirens, Polyphemos, Scylla and Circe on vases.

## Coins

Another one of Odysseus’ nemeses, the Scylla, can be found depicted on the coins of the regions of Lucania and Calabria. Homer describes the Scylla in the *Odyssey* Book 12, line 85. Look at this passage for a description of the Scylla.

22. Select “Lookup” from the pop-up menu under Links.



23. Type “Hom. Od. 12.85” into the box and highlight “Primary Text” from the pop-up menu under Links.



24. Begin reading this passage from line 85 where Circe describes the Scylla’s appearance.

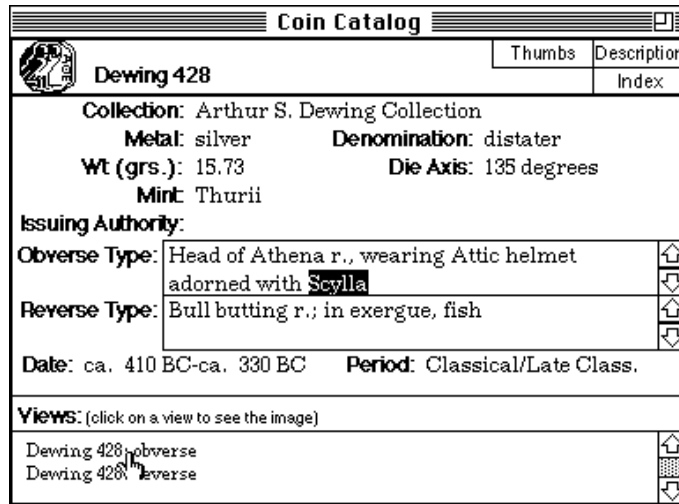
Dewing 428 clearly shows the Scylla’s full shape as it adorns the helmet of Athena. It is odd how you might find the enemy of Odysseus and all men on the helmet of Odysseus’ patron goddess. Why might the Scylla be there?

25. Choose “Lookup” from the Links menu.

26. Type “Dewing 428” into the box and highlight “Coins” from the Links menu.



27. Look at the images for this coin.

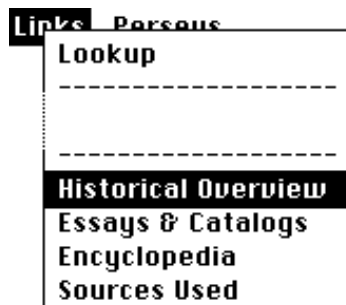


This is not the only coin on which the Scylla appears on Athena's helmet. See the **Browser** for a list of other coins on which the Scylla appears.

## Historical Overview

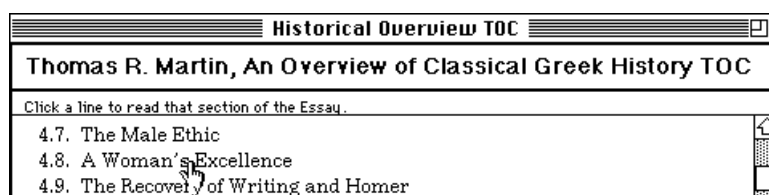
Odysseus gets to have all the adventures while his wife, Penelope, sits at home fending off a band of unruly suitors. Odysseus has affairs with Calypso and Circe while his wife remains chaste. For her good behavior Penelope is considered an example of Greek feminine perfection. Follow the directions below to learn more about the virtues that comprise "a woman's excellence."

28. Choose "Historical Overview" from the pop-up menu under Links.

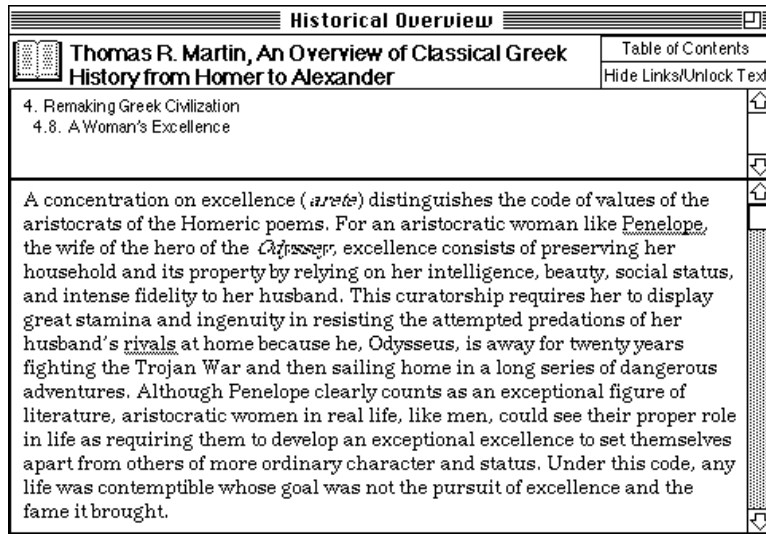


29. Scroll down to the outline topic "4.8 A Woman's Excellence."

30. Click once on the words "4.8 A Woman's Excellence."



31. Read the information and look at the Links in the text of this Historical Overview subtopic for information on Penelope's extraordinary behavior.



## Word Search

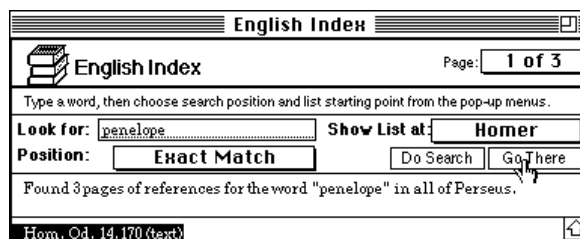
A story underlying, but not overshadowed by that of Odysseus' return, is that of Penelope, Odysseus' wife. Odysseus is trying to get home to Penelope who has not see her husband for twenty years. Despite his absence she has remained faithful to him in the face of suitors' never ending courtship. Homer uses a formulaic phrase to describe this faithful woman, "wise Penelope". Like her husband she is intelligent but how do you go about finding the epithet used to describe Penelope?

First you need to perform an English Word Search for "Penelope". Then look at each Homeric citation to see if you can establish a pattern of words or adjectives used in connection with Penelope.

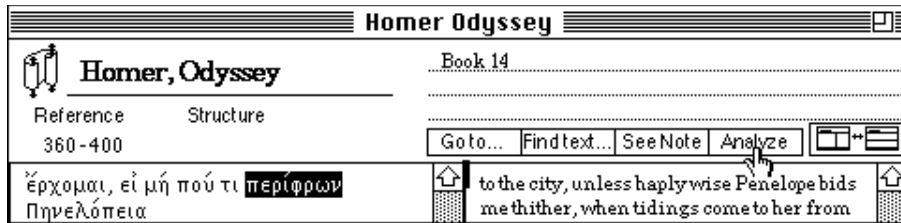
32. Do an English Index Search for "Penelope" in "Homer."  
 33. Look at the five or six citations for similar uses of an adjective or phrased used to describe Penelope.

An alternative to looking at the English text is to analyze the Greek word(s) used to describe Penelope and to discover it meaning. For instance, Homer uses the word two words to describe Penelope. One of these words is translated as "wise" in the English translation of *Perseus*.

34. Highlight "Hom. Od. 14.370" then click once one the "Go there" command button.

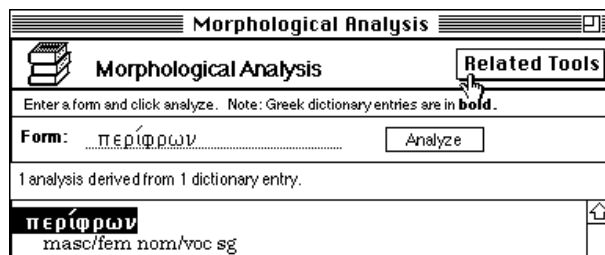


35. Highlight the Greek words as seen below from Book 14, line 370. Use the figure below as a guide.



36. Click once on the “Analyze” command button.

37. Click once on the dictionary form of the word so that it is highlighted.

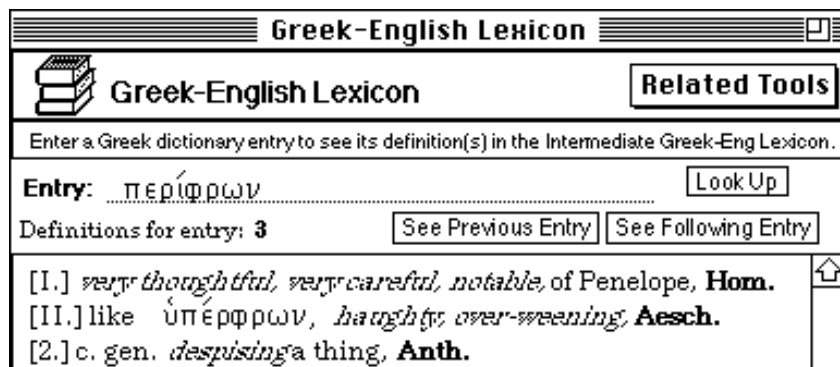


The Greek-English lexicon entry can be found using the steps below.

38. Choose “Greek English Lexicon” from the “Related Tools” pop-up menu button.



39. Read the definition for this word.



Do you think it is accurate to call Penelope “wise” from the definition of this word? What word is used to describe Odysseus’ wisdom or intelligence? Try doing this kind of word examination with the names of other characters from both the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.



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