

## Learning about the ship Argo

Jason and the Argonauts is a story from Greek Mythology

1. Read the story of Jason and the Argonauts (next page).
2. There are some tricky words in the story and they are explained on the following pages.

## Jason and the Argonauts

A long time ago in Greece there was a young man called Jason. His wicked uncle was the king but Jason wanted his throne back.

So his uncle told Jason that he could be king if he bought him the famous Golden fleece from the island of Colchis.

Jason assembled a band of heroes to help him on his quest for the Golden Fleece. They build a wonderful ship called the Argo and set sail for Colchis.

First they stopped in Cyzicus, where the people were friendly. The Argonauts went into the woods to find supplies for their ship but they met some angry giants (who had 6 arms) so they had to run very fast to escape!

Next they stopped in Phineas where the harpies kept stealing the king's food. So Jason fought and defeated the harpies.

When they had restocked their ship they set off to pass between the legendary Symplegades - the Clashing rocks. To avoid the magically clashing rocks they sent a dove in front of them so the rocks clashed before they got there and they were free to pass.

Finally they arrived in Colchis- The king of Colchis gave Jason not one, not 2, but three tasks before he would give up the golden fleece.

First he had to plough a field with fire breathing oxen.

Then he had to overcome an army of skeletons so he tricked them into fighting each other

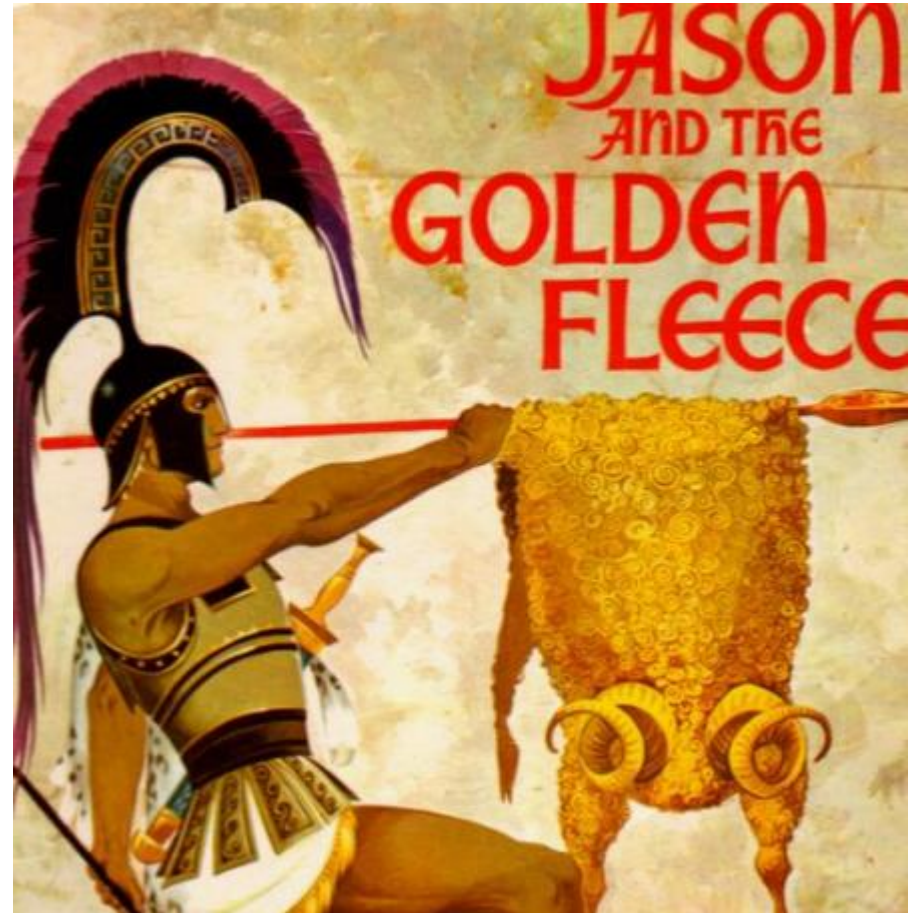
Last of all he had to steal the fleece from the dragon guarding it-so he made it go to sleep with a potion.

On the way back home the Argo passed the Sirens who sang songs to make sailors crash but they blocked their ears with wax.

When the Argo eventually arrived home Jason became the king.

## Golden Fleece

In Greek Mythology the golden fleece was the wool of a golden ram.





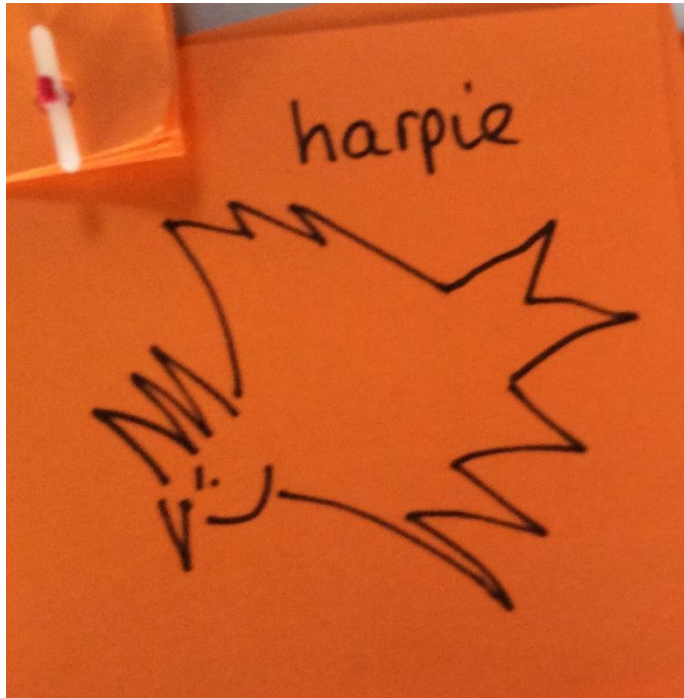
## Colchis

It was on the area where modern-day Georgia is now located.



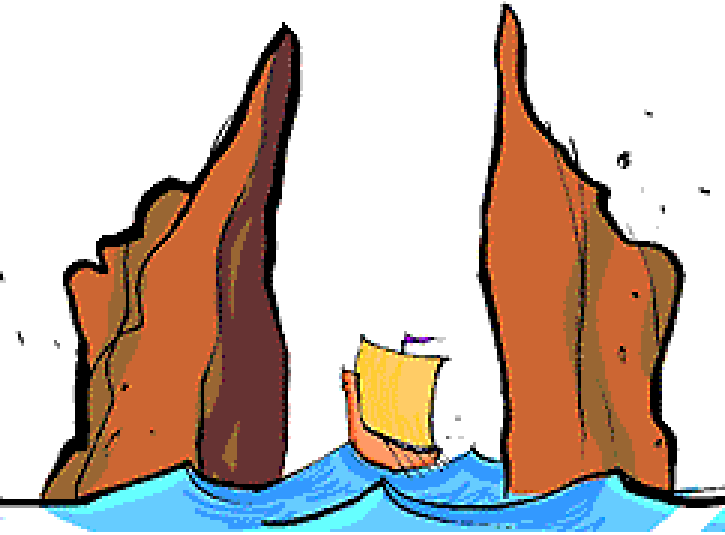
## Cyzicus

An ancient town in what is now Turkey.



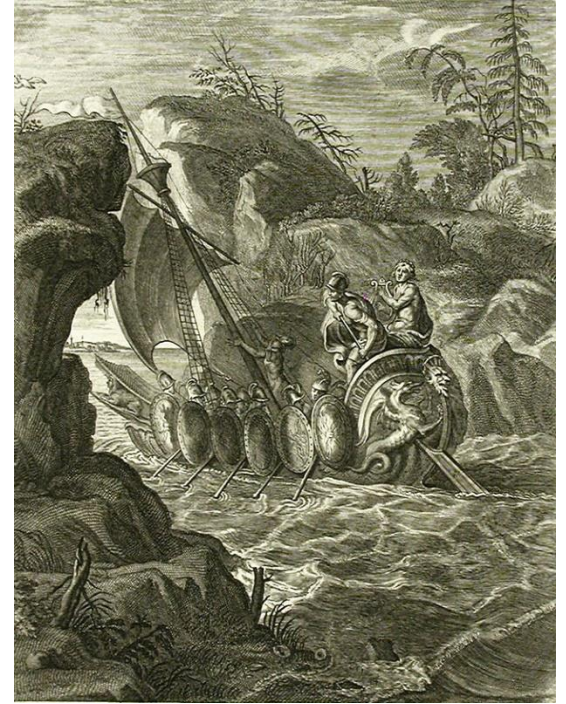
## Harpies

- Flying creatures.
- Part Human Part bird.
- They caused mischief.



## Symplegades Rocks

- A pair of rocks.
- They clashed together randomly.
- Jason let a dove fly between the rocks; it lost only its tail feathers.



# Plough with a Fire breathing oxen

