

Release of the Movie "The Odyssey" (July 23, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

What? The film adaptation of Homer's *Odyssey*, one of the oldest and most famous stories in Greek mythology, which recounts Odysseus's long journey home after the Trojan War. ⚔️

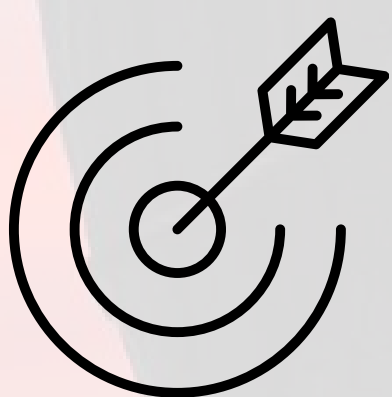
Who? The film *The Odyssey* was directed by Christopher Nolan, the renowned filmmaker behind *Oppenheimer* and *Interstellar*, with Matt Damon in the role of Odysseus.

Where? The story unfolds on the seas and islands of the Mediterranean, between the city of Troy and Odysseus's kingdom on the island of Ithaca, Greece.

When? The film was released in cinemas worldwide between July 15 and 17, 2026.

Why is it important? This film is a landmark event because it's the first time this nearly 3,000-year-old story has been brought to the big screen on such a grand scale, entirely in IMAX format.

🎯 **For this activity, your goal will be to learn more about this legendary tale and the film *The Odyssey*.**



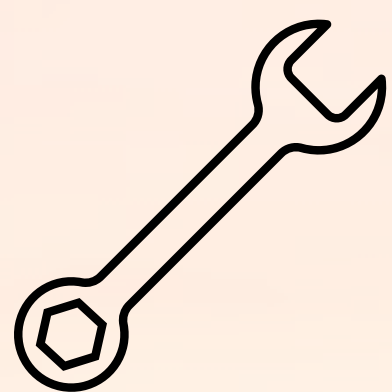
OBJECTIVES

- Discover Homer's *Odyssey* and Odysseus's return journey
- Recognize common expressions from mythology and understand their modern meaning
- Complete Christopher Nolan's profile using Wikipedia
- Match four of Nolan's major films with their release year
- Connect a classic of antiquity with a contemporary film event



SUBJECTS

- **Social Studies / History**
 - Ancient Greece and Mythology
 - Homer and the Transmission of Stories (from Oral to Written)
 - The Mediterranean World: Troy and Ithaca
- **English**
 - Reading Comprehension (Informational Text)
 - Expressions and Idioms from Mythology
 - Documentary Research (Wikipedia)
 - Writing Short Answers
- **Arts**
 - Cinema as an Adaptation of a Literary Work
 - Ancient Greek Art: Red-Figure Pottery
 - Christopher Nolan and the Big Screen



COMPETENCIES

- Research and interpret information (text, image, video)
- Read and understand an informative text
- Establish connections between an ancient narrative and modern language
- Use Wikipedia to find specific information
- Produce short and precise answers



DURATION

- Approximately 60 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Ask the students if they have ever heard of Ulysses or the Odyssey.
- Ask them if they know any creatures from Greek mythology (Cyclops, Sirens, sea monsters, etc.).
- Locate Greece and the Mediterranean Sea on a map.
- Gather their hypotheses: Why is such an old story becoming a great film today?

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — The Story of the Odyssey. Reading of a short text about Odysseus's journey, watching of the film trailer, and answers to four comprehension questions.

Q1 — The Greeks hide inside a giant wooden horse (the Trojan Horse).

Q2 — The Cyclopes.

Q3 — Into pigs.

Q4 — Penelope (the wife) and Telemachus (the son).

STEP 2 — Words from The Odyssey. Matching of four expressions from the story to their present-day meaning.

Q5 — An experienced person who guides and advises someone. ("to have a mentor")

Q6 — Seductive but deceptive and dangerous promises. ("listening to the Sirens' song")

Q7 — An endless task that must be constantly repeated. ("Penelope's web")

Q8 — To go from one difficult situation to an even worse one. ("being caught between Scylla and Charybdis")

STEP 3 — Christopher Nolan, A Genius Director. Completion of Christopher Nolan's profile using Wikipedia, then identification of four of his films and their release years.

Date of birth: July 30, 1970.

City of birth: London, United Kingdom.

Citizenship: British and American.

Spouse: Emma Thomas.

Q9 — Interstellar, 2014.

Q10 — Dunkirk, 2017.

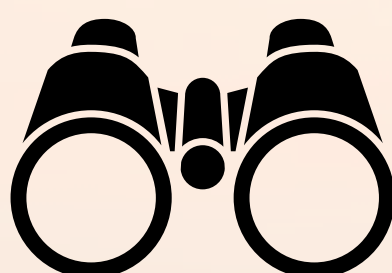
Q11 — Inception, 2010.

Q12 — Oppenheimer, 2023.



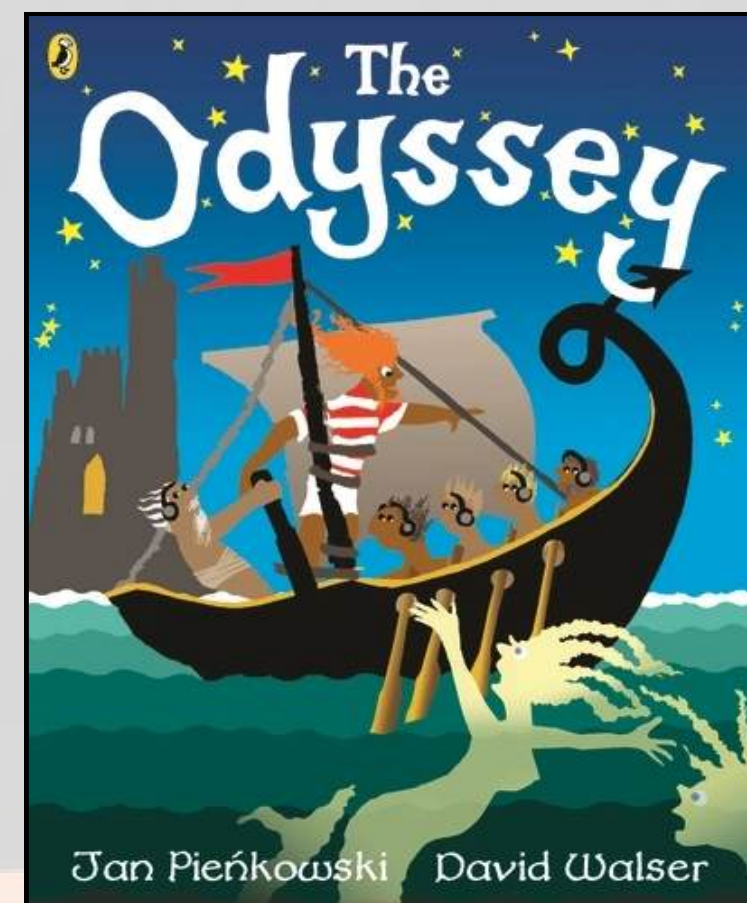
WRAPPING UP

- Conduct a group discussion about what the students have learned.
- Discuss what surprised them most (expressions still used today, the age of the story, Nolan's films).
- Ask: Why does a story nearly three thousand years old still resonate with us?



FURTHER EXPLORATION

 David Walser & Jan Pienkowski. *The Odyssey*. Puffin Editor



Q1 — He leaves Troy (point 1) and seeks to reach his island, Ithaca (point 17).

Q2 — Troy is located in present-day Turkey, and Ithaca is an island in Greece.

Q3 — They are transformed into pigs by Circe's powers. (Direct echo of Q3 in the main activity — good reminder.)

Q4 — Ten years (the return journey; not to be confused with the twenty years of total absence, including the war).

Q5 — The direct distance is short (a few hundred kilometers, or a few days of sailing). Open-ended answer for the second part: his journey was so long because he was constantly diverted from his course — storms, monsters, forced stops, and above all, the wrath of Poseidon, who relentlessly pursued him.



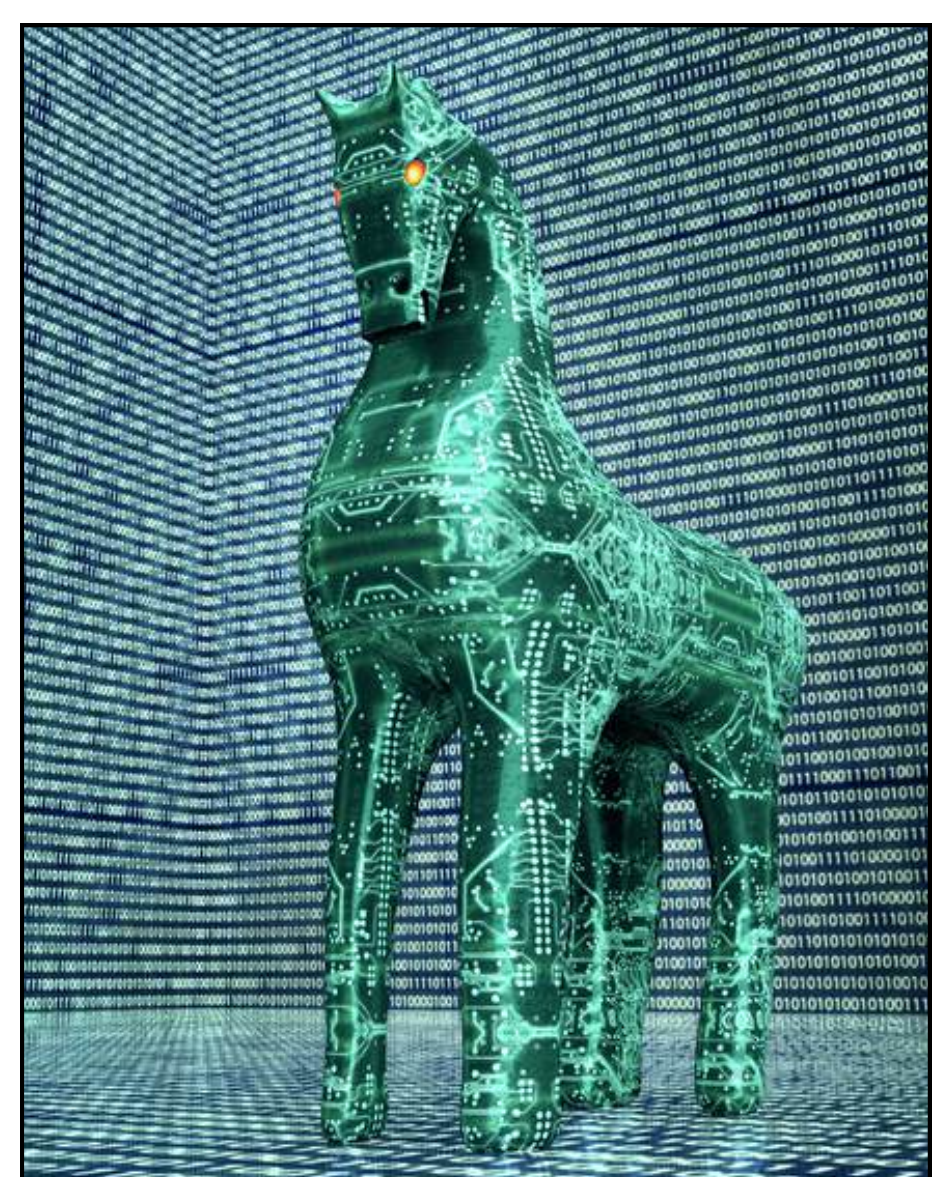
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An endless journey home

Ten years. That's how long it took Odysseus to return to his island after the Trojan War. Ten long years drifting from one end of the Mediterranean to the other, tossed about by storms, sea monsters, and the wrath of the gods. Here is the map of this extraordinary journey home.

Using Google Earth, answer the following questions about Odysseus's journey!

- Q1 — From which city does Odysseus depart at the very beginning of his journey, and which island does he want to reach to finally return home?
- Q2 — Using Google Earth, find Troy and Ithaca: in which modern-day countries are these two places located?
- Q3 — When Odysseus and his crew arrive at the home of the goddess Circe (Aeaea), what happens to the crew members?
- Q4 — According to the map's title, how long does Odysseus's entire journey home take?
- Q5 — Using Google Earth, measure the straight-line distance between Troy and Ithaca: are you surprised that it is so short, given that it took Odysseus ten years to make this journey? In your opinion, why was his journey so long?



A "Trojan horse" virus is a trapped computer program. It disguises itself as something useful or fun — a game, an app, an attachment — so that you install it on your device yourself.

But once inside, it does hidden things: steal your passwords, spy on you or let in other dangerous programs. You thought you were receiving a gift, and you brought in the enemy.

This is exactly the trick of the real Trojan horse! In The Odyssey, the Greeks offer the Trojans an immense wooden horse. The Trojans bring it into their city themselves, without knowing that soldiers are hidden inside.

In both cases, the trap is the same: pretending to be a gift to better deceive. This is why computer scientists borrowed this name from mythology!