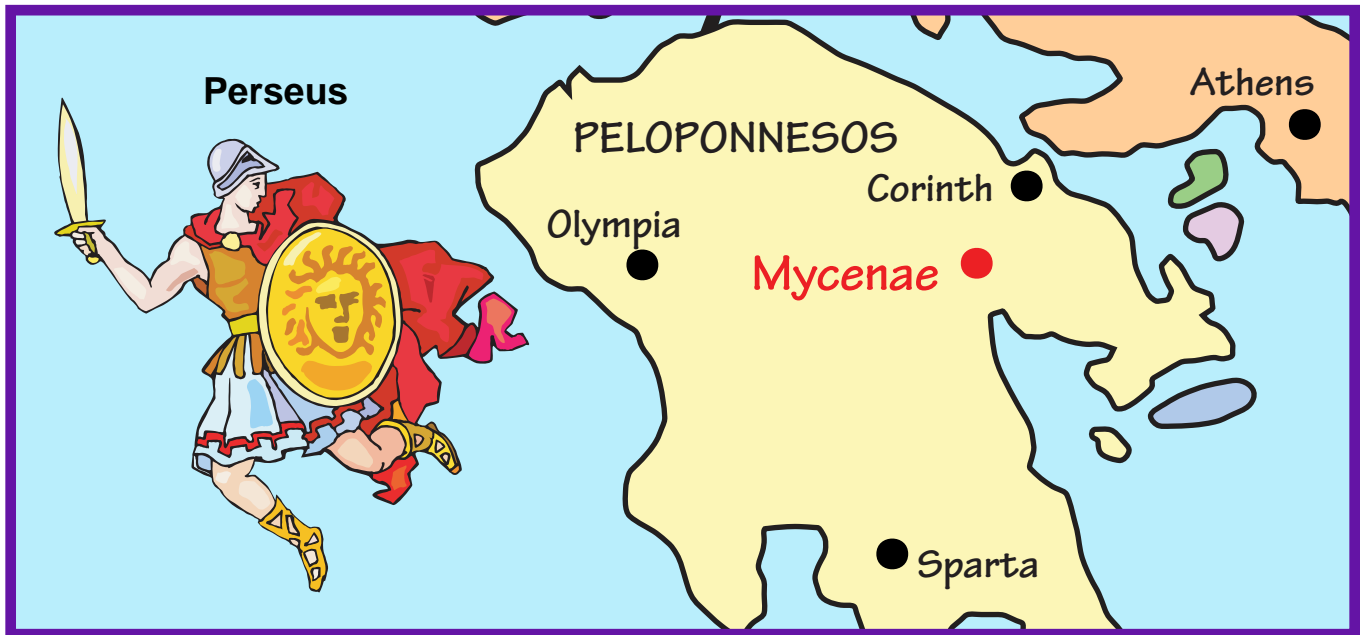
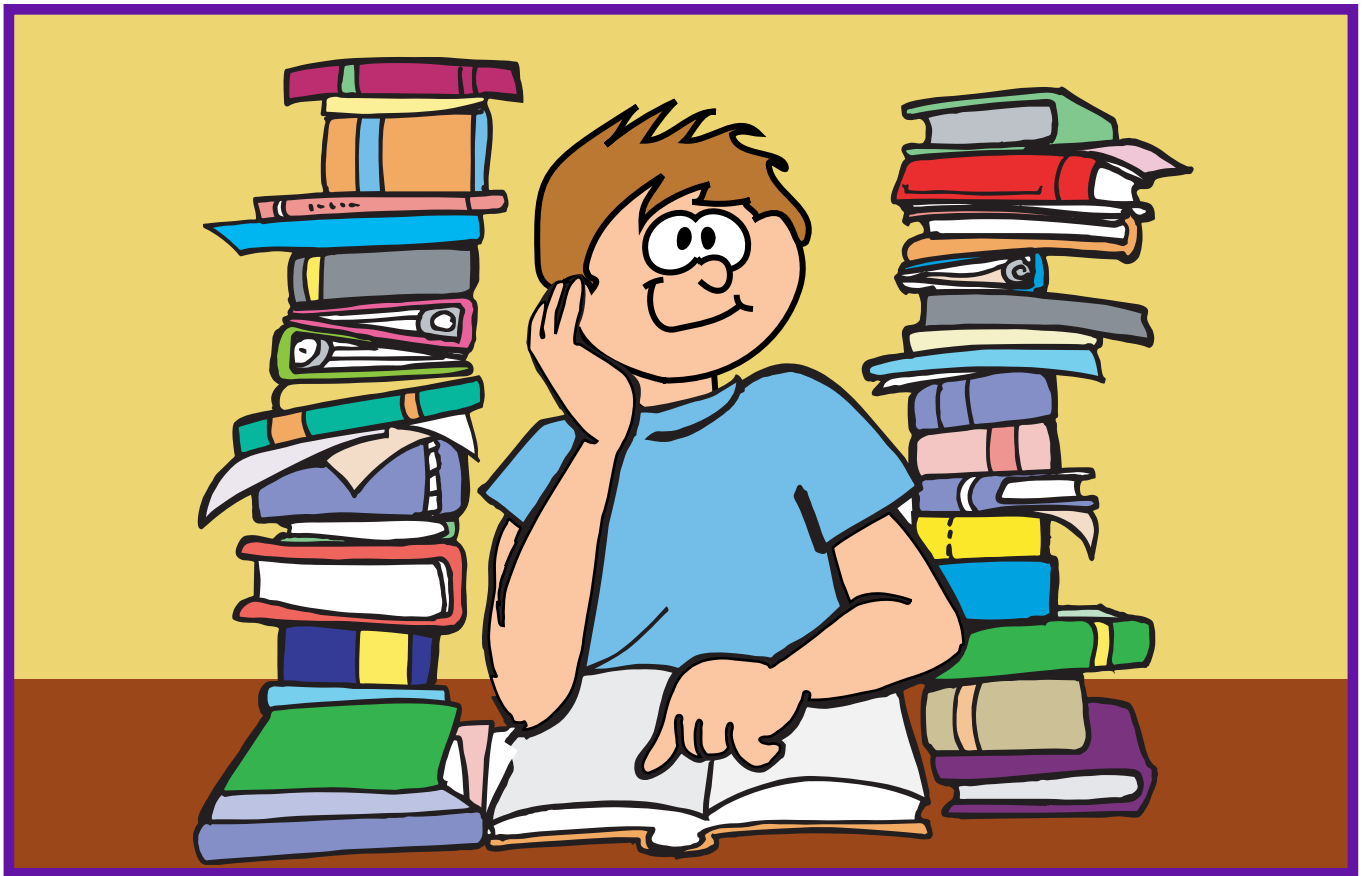


Tour of the Holy Lands - Mycenae



Now that we have seen Olympia and passed by Sparta, our next stop is Mycenae - one of the oldest cities in the world! There are many ways to spell and pronounce "Mycenae." We'll use this one: My'sen-ay'-a. This ancient city is so old that the only Mycenaen people we know about are mythological. There's a big word! Does anyone know what it means? It comes from the word "myth." Myths are imaginary stories describing the adventures of gods, semigods (part god, part human), or legendary heroes of a particular people. For instance, it is said that Mycenae was discovered by Perseus, son of the god, Zeus, and its huge walls were built by Cyclops, a large, one-eyed, mythical giant.





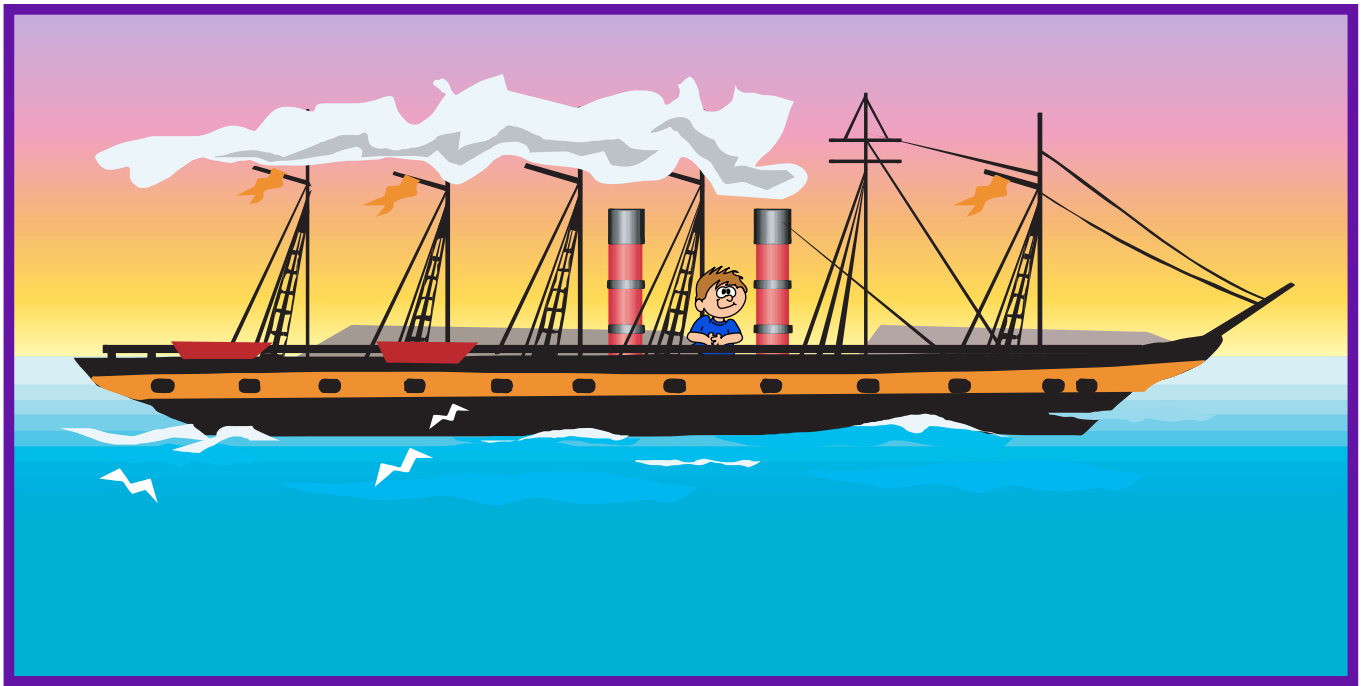
How do we know this? We have an adventurous man to thank. He grew up in Germany almost 300 years ago, and had a very long name - Johann Ludwig Heinrich Julius Schliemann. We'll call him "Henry." Henry had many brothers and sisters. When he was nine, his mother passed away, and he was sent to live with an uncle. This uncle had a large library, and there Henry discovered the wonderful subject of archaeology.



Johann Ludwig Heinrich
Julius Schliemann

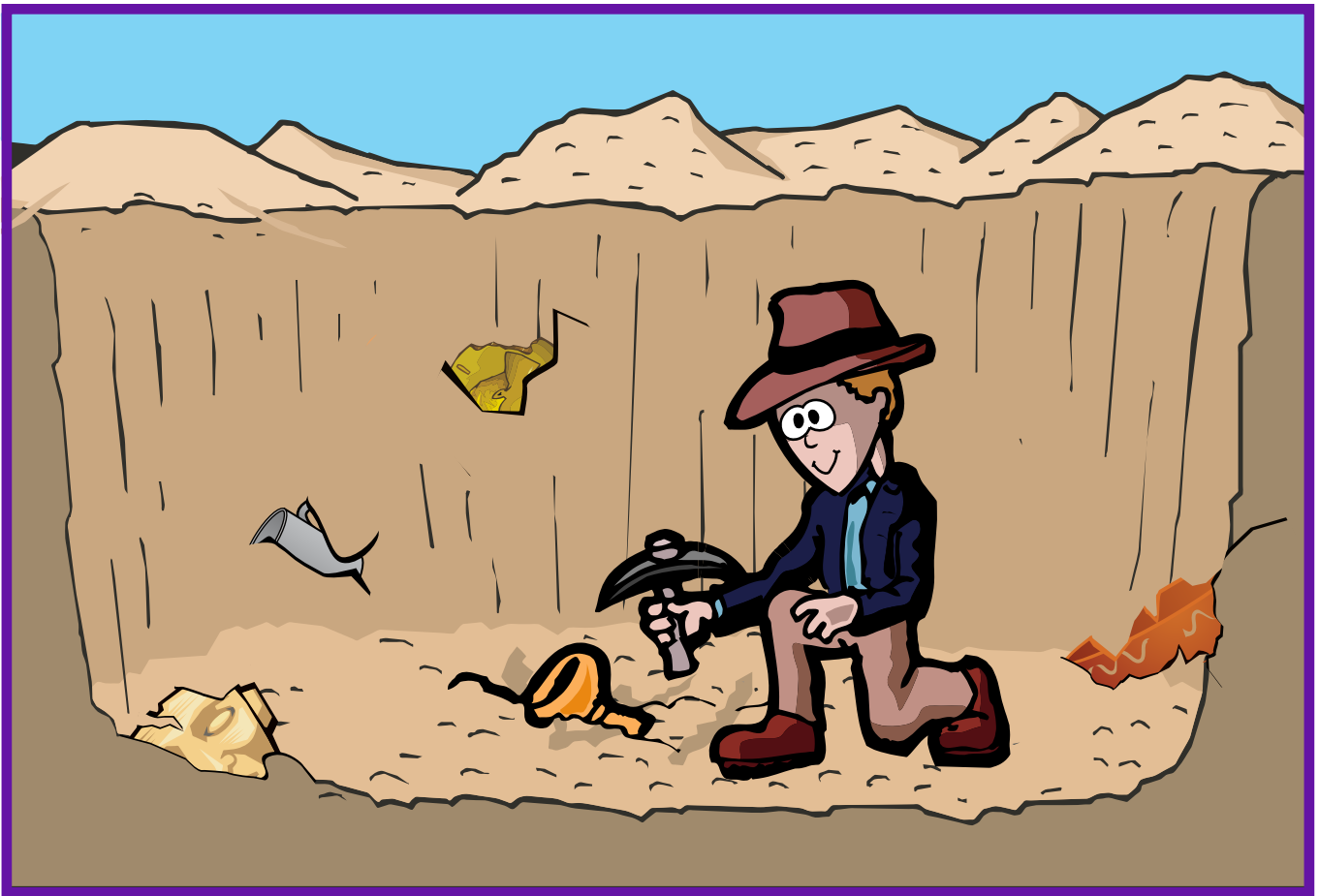


You remember that archaeology is learning about people through the study of the things they left behind in historic or prehistoric time. "Prehistoric" means the time before history was ever written down. Archaeologists are people who search for items from the past that have been buried in the earth. They are professional diggers! One of Henry's favorite pastimes was to dig in the local churchyard. After reading the books he found in his uncle's library, Henry decided that he wanted to be an archaeologist when he grew up. In fact, he wanted to find and excavate Troy, an ancient city where the Trojan War was fought, a 10-year fight between Troy and Mycenae. Henry loved to read about the war in Greek writings, especially in an epic poem (meaning very long) by an ancient writer named Homer.



Henry was quite an adventurer. He supported himself by selling groceries. After work, he often went to the library where he taught himself languages, including Dutch, English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. In fact, he claimed he could learn a new language in six weeks. At the age of 19, Henry left home to be a cabin boy on a ship bound for South America. Later, he lived in Russia for some time, where he learned Russian and Greek. In 1849, Henry made a fortune in the California Gold Rush. After returning to Russia, he met a girl named “Ekaterina” and married her in 1852. Henry was then 30 years old, and his adventures were just beginning.





In 1868, trusting in Homer as his guide and with the help of his new archaeological partner, Frank Calvert, Henry began digging in Hissarlik, Turkey. He and Frank uncovered nine cities, one on top of the other, and they found copper, silver and gold artifacts. Henry was so sure that one of the cities was Troy, from *The Iliad*, that he named it "Priam's (Pri' am) Treasure" after the ancient King Priam of Troy. After this incredible discovery, Henry was eager to dig at another site to find Mycenae.



In order to find Mycenae, Henry followed the words of another ancient writer named Pausanias (paw-sey' nee-uhz). Henry may have taken the route that the King of Mycenae, Agamemnon, took when he returned home a victor (winner) from the Trojan War.

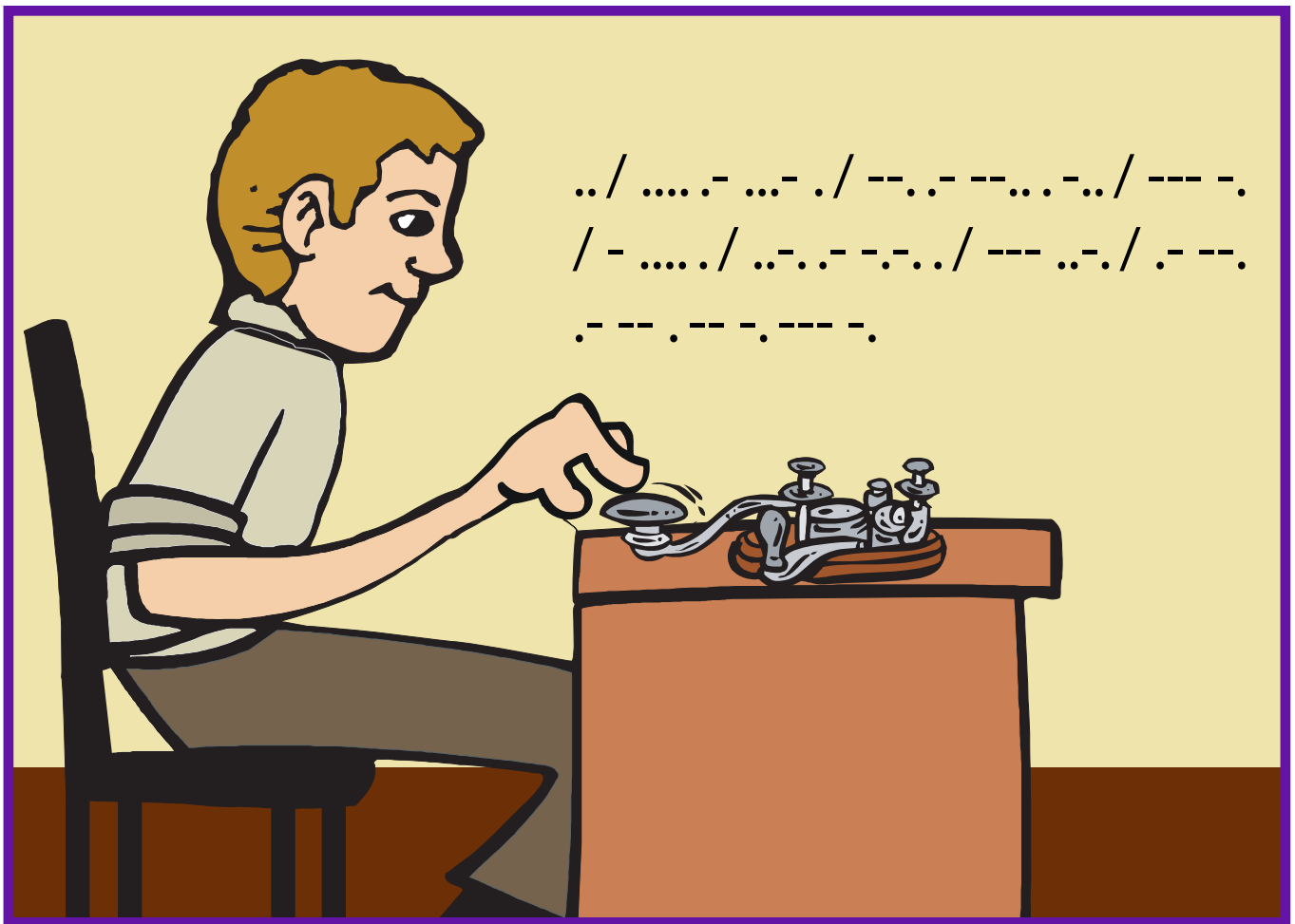
We're now headed to Mycenae, and we'll see what Henry has discovered.

Mycenae is one of the most famous prehistoric settlements in Greece. Look out the bus window and notice the mountains on either side of us. Mycenae is situated in a glen, which is a small, flat area between two mountains. To the south in the distance is the Gulf of Argolis (ar' guh lis). The mountains have protected the roads to the city and kept the wealth safe inside the city for over 2,000 years.



LION GATE

See the road leading to the Lion Gate? Henry can't wait to pass through that famous gate. He had read descriptions of it by early travelers. In 1840, the court in front of the gate was excavated. Now, 52-year-old Henry is so curious to know what's buried there that he immediately begins digging inside the gate. As excited as Henry is, he issues instructions for the diggers to dig very carefully. They don't want to break anything that might be hidden beneath the next shovel full of dirt. As with most excavations, they spent weeks of hard work, digging and removing tons of earth. But oh was it worth it! Henry and his team finally are rewarded for their persistence and diligence. The archaeologists uncover not one or two, but six shaft graves, containing 19 skeletons and a treasure of gold and silver - more than Henry has ever seen before. The men's bodies have gold masks on their faces, reflecting a common practice at the passing of important people. The women have gold crowns on their heads and the children are each wrapped in gold. Beside the bodies are beautiful weapons, cups and jewelry in gold and silver. These last items are decorated with beautiful patterns and scenes. Henry and his diggers shout for joy.



Henry sends a telegram to the King of Greece: "I have gazed on the face of Agamemnon." Later, Henry discovers that those graves were dug 300 years before the Trojan War. So the man's gold mask could not have belonged to King Agamemnon.



MASK OF AGAMEMNON



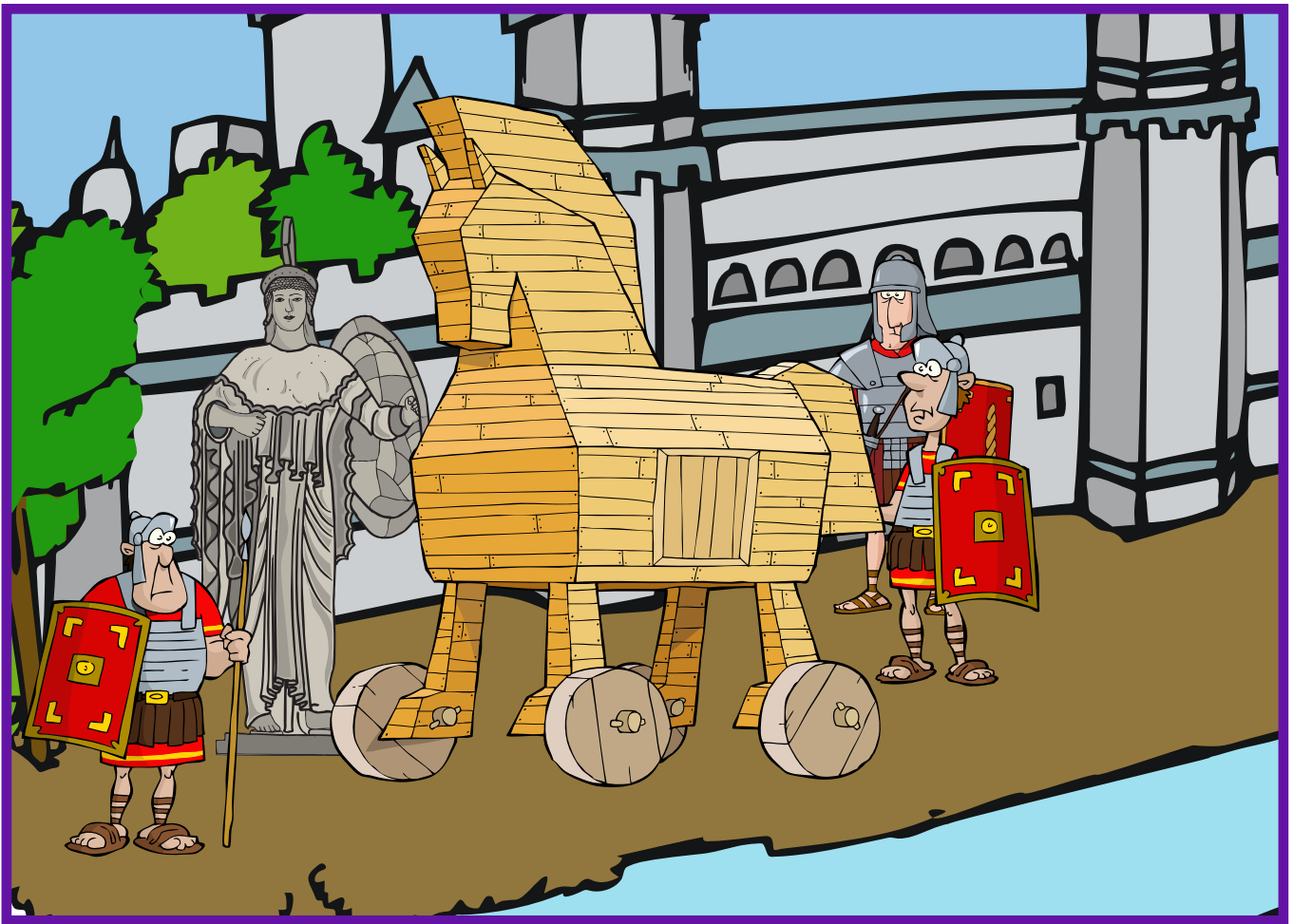
As a child, Henry would have loved climbing these walls and pretending he was in King Agamemnon's palace up on the acropolis (a-kraw'poh-lis). "Acropolis" is a Greek word which comes in two parts, "acro" meaning "high" and "polis" meaning "city." It is the highest fortified (like a fort) area of an ancient Greek city. We'll see a famous acropolis when we get to Athens. It may not have been the real palace, but no one has yet found in Greece anything like the masks and other items that Henry found. This discovery made Henry world famous. That might have been the best adventure of Henry's life!



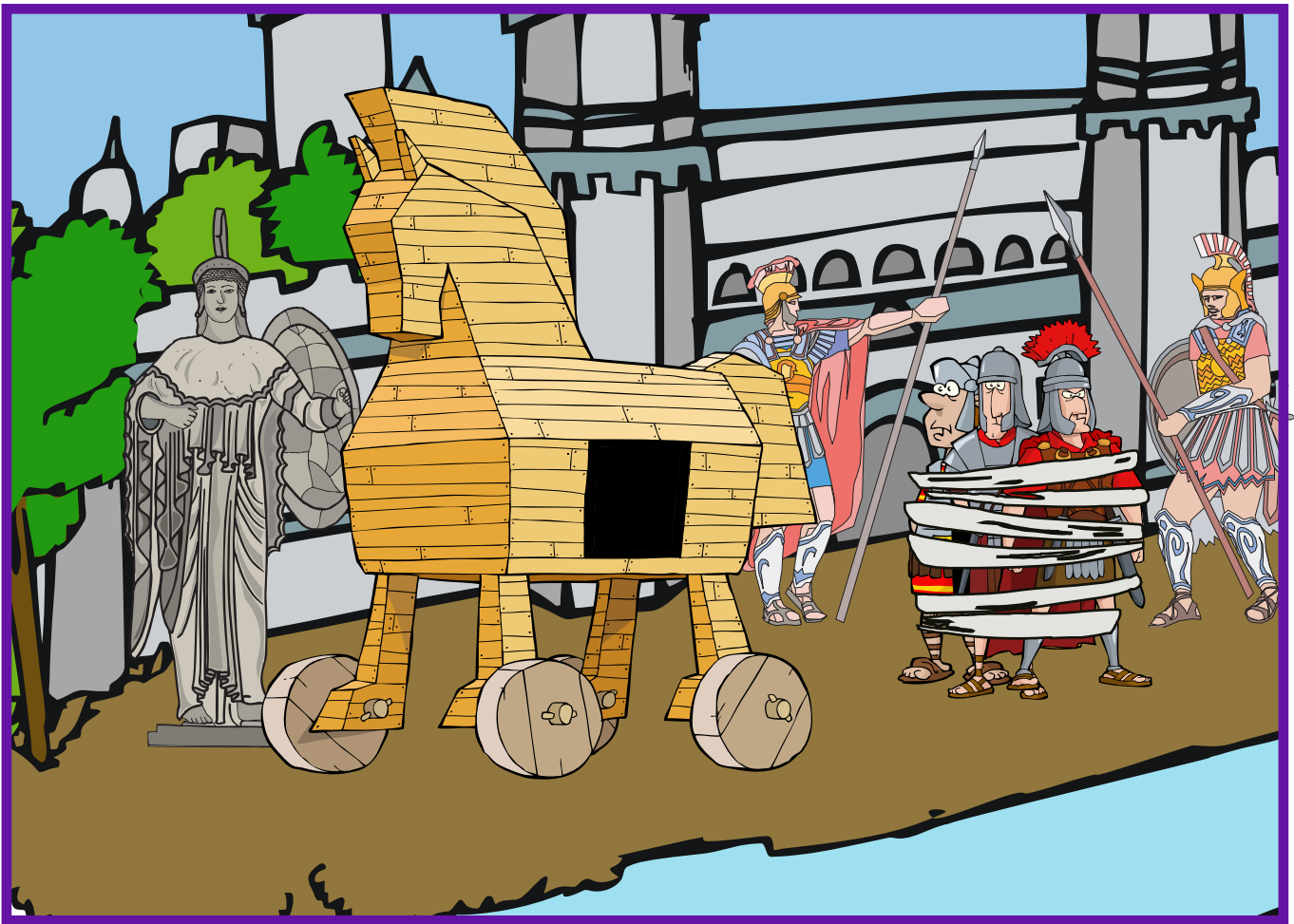
It's time to leave Mycenae so we can catch up with the Apostle Paul again. Before we head to Athens, though, the bus is going to take us to the shore, just 12 miles away.

How far do you think you can see across the water? We're standing where the Queen might have stood when she searched the horizon for a ship's beacon (a fiery warning light). That beacon would tell her that her husband, King Agamemnon, was coming home from the Trojan War, victorious.

What a story Agamemnon would have to tell his wife: after 10 years, he and his army had finally achieved victory by trickery. They had entered the gates of Troy in a home-made wooden horse. Henry must have loved to read this part of the story. Listen to what happened.



Neither side was winning the war until one of the Greek kings suggested that they build a wooden horse on wheels outside the city walls. The horse was HUGE — about as big as a house. Some of the Greek soldiers climbed inside the horse's belly, while the rest of them pretended to give up and go home. Soon the Trojans found the horse. "What is it?" they asked. The Greeks hidden inside kept very still and quiet. The Trojans were told it was a gift to Athena, the goddess of war, so they rolled the horse inside the city gate. They had to tear down part of the protective city wall to get it in. Then the Trojans held a party to celebrate their victory over the Greeks. Do you think victory was that simple?! Here's what happened.



Finally the Trojans fell asleep. When it was completely silent outside the horse, the Greeks climbed out of its belly and killed the Trojan wall guards. The rest of the Greek army came through the gates and killed all the Trojans, except for the women and children. The Greeks took them back to Greece as slaves. And that's how the Trojan War was finally won.

There's a saying that goes like this: "Beware of Greeks bearing gifts." It means that if you are offered a present, be careful. Someone might be trying to trick you, just as the Greeks fooled the Trojans!



Now, let's go find Paul! We've taken a more round-about route to Athens than he did. We've made side trips to some interesting ancient pagan sites -- Delphi, Olympia and Mycenae -- which are not mentioned in the Bible. Yet, they played an important role in ancient times, and knowing about them helps us better understand the ancient Greeks and the early Christians.

Preaching and teaching from town to town, Paul traveled through Greece from Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea in the North to Athens in the South. We'll leave the Peloponnese by crossing the bridge at the Corinth Canal to catch up with him in Athens.