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Two prophecies about Achilles matter as the son of Thetis and Peleus sails for Troy with other Greeks. Calchas (Kalchas), a seer, has said that Troy cannot be defeated without the help of Achilles. However ... another prophecy, given to Achilles' mother, foretells that if Achilles fights against Troy, and Troy falls, Achilles will die. For that reason, Thetis has tried to keep her son hidden as war with Troy looks likely. This image, online via "[The Worlds of David Darling](#)," depicts an artist's conception of Greek ships sailing to Troy.

Menelaus, who could not wage war alone, sought the assistance of his brother, Agamemnon, to help him avenge the loss of his wife. King of Mycenae—where Heinrich Schliemann much later discovered magnificent ruins)—Agamemnon was a powerful ruler.

Achilles, whose mother had tried to prevent her son from fighting because of a prophecy which predicted his death if he fought against Troy, was hidden away. He was ultimately found by Odysseus (Ulysses) who persuaded the young man to fight.

Together with his cousin and close friend Patroclus (Patroklos), Achilles sailed with Odysseus and the Greek fleet (of a thousand ships) to fight against Troy. With such powerful forces on their side, the Greeks must have thought the war would soon be over. It was not.

A fearless warrior, Achilles captured Briseis (a beautiful woman and wife of one of Achilles' victims) as a war prize during one of his exploits.

Although Troy itself was holding firm against the Greeks, Achilles had captured twenty-three towns in Trojan territory. (Briseis, parenthetically, was NOT King Priam's niece, as depicted in the movie *Troy*.)

Soon, however, Briseis was the cause of a serious rift between Achilles and Agamemnon. It is with this story, in the tenth year of the Trojan War, that the *Iliad* begins.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-TROJAN-WAR-Troy>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-TROJAN-WAR-Troy>

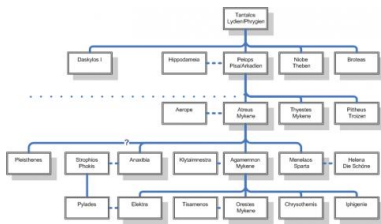


### Menelaus - Illustrated Sculpture

Image online, courtesy the odysseusjourney blog.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Menelaus-Illustrated-Sculpture>



### Genealogy Chart - Agamemnon

Chart created by Aneuper, placed online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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### Agamemnon - Ancient Greek Vase

Vase is at [the Louvre](#), Department of Greek, Etruscan and Roman Antiquities, Sully wing, room 44.

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### Mycenae - As it Appears Today

Image online, courtesy the [Ball State University](#) website.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mycenae-As-it-Appears-Today>



### Heinrich Schliemann

Image online, courtesy Aegeus - Society for Aegean Prehistory website.

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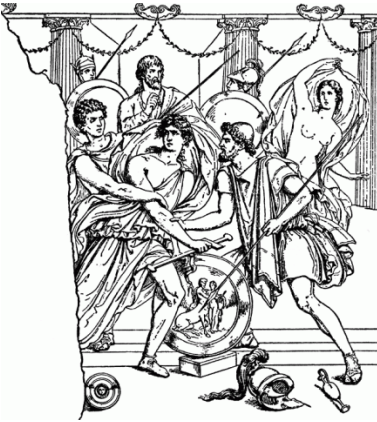


### Ruins of Troy - Amphitheater

Image online courtesy Wikimedia Commons. License: CC BY-SA 2.0.

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### Ulysses Discovers Achilles

From, *Thomas Bulfinch, The Age of Fable* (Philadelphia: Henry Altemus Company, 1897).

Online, courtesy [Florida Center for Instructional Technology](#).

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ulysses-Discovers-Achilles>



### Patroclus and Achilles

Image online, courtesy the [Target Health](#) blog site.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Patroclus-and-Achilles>



### War Prize - Achilles Takes Briseis

This red-figure cup, ca. 490 BC, is now maintained by the Louvre - Department of Greek, Etruscan and Roman Antiquities, Sully, first floor, room 43, case 23.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/War-Prize-Achilles-Takes-Briseis>

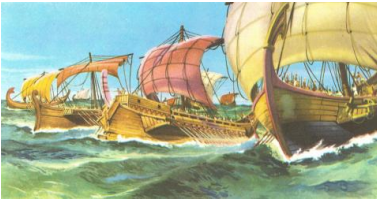


### Trojan War - Achaeans (Greeks) versus Trojans

Map of the Trojan War, online courtesy Carlos Parada. Parada is also the author of *Genealogical Guide to Greek Mythology*.

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## THE TROJAN WAR

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