The Ken Jennings’ Junior Genius Guides Series:
MAPS AND GEOGRAPHY and
GREEK MYTHOLOGY Classroom Guide
DIRECTIONS ON HOW TO HOLD AN EVENT IN YOUR CLASSROOM

Using True/False or Multiple Choice questions:
• These questions can all be used as a game with individuals or teams, depending on your class and how you would like to set it up.
• Either the teacher, or an assigned student, can read the question. Have everyone record their answer, whether individually or as a team. Allow a short time for thought, or for discussion within a team.
• To use the game as a “teaching moment” the answers have been provided. So once the question has been read, and answers recorded, then give the correct answer to the class...it will help everyone remember the correct answer!
• As a fun reward, the “Junior Genius” can be awarded the chance to be the reader for your next event!

GAMES

There are thousands of factoids throughout Ken Jennings’ Junior Genius Guides. To make those factoids work for you in your classroom, we have created three quiz games for you to play. The first two games are True or False quizzes, and the second two are “Who Wants to Be a Junior Genius?” multiple-choice games. There are many more facts available in the Maps and Geography and Greek Mythology books than are provided in these games, so you can also make up your own questions, using those provided as a model. Finally, in honor of author Ken Jennings’ achievement as all-time-great winner on the game show Jeopardy!, we have included two Junior Genius Jeopardy! games. All of these games can be used in a variety of ways—at school, at a Junior Genius Club meeting, book club, Scout meeting, or geography club.

These games correlate with the following Common Core State Standards: (RI.3–5.1, 7)

JUNIOR GENIUS TRUE OR FALSE QUIZ:
MAPS AND GEOGRAPHY

1. The Junior Genius motto is Semper Quaens, which is Latin for “Always Curious.”
2. The Northern Hemisphere is above the equator, and toilets there flush counterclockwise. In the Southern Hemisphere, which is below the equator, toilets flush clockwise, all due to the Coriolis effect.
3. In the state of Indiana it can be both three o’clock and two o’clock at the same time.
4. Measured from its base to its summit, Mount Everest is the world’s tallest mountain.
5. The world’s largest desert is the Sahara, in North Africa.
6. Maps are older than written language.
7. Astronaut John Glenn, looking down from space, was able to identify the state of Florida, saying it looked just like the map of Florida.
8. Imaginary cities can appear on maps.
9. The world’s largest living structure is 1200 miles long and is visible from space.
10. The Pacific Ocean rests on the world’s largest tectonic plate, surrounded by the Ring of Fire.
11. Point Nemo, in the South Pacific, is where the movie Finding Nemo was filmed.
12. The Dead Sea is the saltiest lake on the earth.
13. Lake Baikal, in Siberia, has enough fresh water to provide drinking water for everyone on earth for fifty years.
14. The tallest waterfall in the world is the Denmark Strait. It is two miles long and it is entirely underwater.
15. A megalopolis is a giant dinosaur living in Mexico City.
16. La Paz, Bolivia, is the highest capital city on the Earth and, because of this, has almost no fires since there is not enough oxygen in the air to start a fire easily.
17. The country once known as Persia is now known as Iran.
18. The flag of Papua New Guinea was designed by a fifteen-year-old boy.
19. The current US flag has one stripe and one star for each of the fifty states.
20. Alaska contains both the westernmost and easternmost points in America.

**JUNIOR GENIUS TRUE OR FALSE QUIZ: GREEK MYTHOLOGY**

1. Greek mythology is important today because so much of our civilization was born in Ancient Greece.
2. The Greeks believed in only one god, Zeus.
3. When they needed special guidance from the gods, Greeks would go to specific temples and consult oracles.
4. The Greeks believed that gods and goddesses lived in the highest mountain in Greece, Mount Athens.
5. There is a myth that the Olympic Games were started to entertain the newborn baby Zeus, who was hiding from his father Cronus, who wanted to eat him.
6. Besides the fourteen Olympians, the Greeks had many other gods and goddesses as deities in their daily life.
7. The nine Muses were daughters of Zeus, and each oversaw one of the arts or sciences.
8. All nymphs were immortal, like the Olympians.
9. Greek myths were all written down and that is why they are still with us today.
10. Mortals who tried to tell gods that they were better showed “hubris” and were always punished by the gods.

**“WHO WANTS TO BE A JUNIOR GENIUS?” MULTIPLE CHOICE: MAPS AND GEOGRAPHY**

1. Metropolis, from Superman comics, is based on what real city?
   a) Chicago
   b) Tokyo
   c) New York City
   d) London

2. The world’s largest office building, The Pentagon
   a) is really a miniature city
   b) has 25,000 workers
   c) has twenty restaurants, a gym, a chapel, a nail salon, an art gallery, a Best Buy store, and six separate zip codes
   d) All of the above

3. The longest border between two countries is between
   a) Canada and the USA
   b) China and Russia
   c) Venezuela and Brazil
   d) Saudi Arabia and Ghana
4. The world’s highest tides, upwards of fifty feet, are found in the Bay of Fundy, which is located in what country?
   a) USA  
   b) India  
   c) Canada  
   d) Finland

5. The northernmost capital of a country is
   a) London  
   b) Reykjavik  
   c) Anchorage  
   d) Moscow

6. Saudi Arabia
   a) is the twelfth-biggest country on Earth  
   b) does not have a single lake  
   c) does not have a single river  
   d) All of the above

7. The country of Belize was once known as
   a) Gold Coast  
   b) Zaire  
   c) Dahomey  
   d) British Honduras

8. What is the most populated city in the world?
   a) New York  
   b) Tokyo  
   c) London  
   d) Beijing

9. Atlases are named after:
   a) Atlas, the Greek Titan  
   b) Charles Atlas, famous weight lifter  
   c) Atlas, the mythological African king who invented the first globe  
   d) None of the above

10. The study of maps is called:
    a) cartifact  
    b) cartophile  
    c) cartocacoethes  
    d) cartography

“WHO WANTS TO BE A JUNIOR GENIUS?”
MULTIPLE CHOICE: GREEK MYTHOLOGY

1. Hero of Alexandria invented
   a) the world’s first steam engine  
   b) the world’s first automatically opening door  
   c) the world’s first vending machine  
   d) all of the above

2. Who were the first two gods of Greek mythology?
   a) Zeus and Hera  
   b) Cronus and Rhea
c) Uranus and Gaea  
d) None of the above

3. The god of the forge, Hephaestus, created the first woman out of clay. Her name was  
a) Athena  
b) Pandora  
c) Echo  
d) Hera

4. After the rule of the Titans, the Olympians were led by these brothers  
   and sisters:  
a) Hestia and Demeter  
b) Poseidon and Hades  
c) Hera and Zeus  
d) All of the above

5. In Greek mythology, Zeus would often immortalize fallen heroes by placing them in  
   the stars as a constellation. Which of these is not a constellation created by him?  
a) The Great Bear, known as the Big Dipper  
b) The Goat, known as Capricorn  
c) The Pig, known as When Pigs Fly  
d) None of the above

6. Which goddesses were attendants of Aphrodite, spreading charm and beauty?  
a) The Fates  
b) The Graces  
c) The Hours  
d) All of the above

7. Who was considered the greatest of all the Greek heroes?  
a) Heracles  
b) Orion  
c) Jason  
d) None of the above

8. He was known as the greatest mortal singer from Greek mythology.  
a) Pan  
b) Midas  
c) Orpheus  
d) Oedipus

9. The Greek mythical centaur is made up by mixing the body parts of an animal with  
   something else. What is a centaur a combination of?  
a) an eagle and a lion  
b) a horse and a rooster  
c) a man and a horse  
d) a man and a goat
DIRECTIONS ON HOW TO HOLD A JUNIOR GENIUS JEOPARDY! GAME IN THE CLASSROOM

• Divide the class into two teams.

• As the teacher, tell your students that they can choose a question from one of two categories: “Maps and Geography” or “Greek Mythology.”

• Have one team be the first to choose a category. Then, read a question from the “Junior Genius Jeopardy!—Maps and Geography” or “Junior Genius Jeopardy!—Greek Mythology” section, depending on what they choose.

• After reading the question, have the two teams decide among themselves what they think the answer is.

• Then have a designated member from each team come to the front of the room and write their answer on the chalkboard.

• After both teams have written their answer on the board (remember to phrase the answer in the form of a question), you can say the answer.

• Tally up the number of correct answers for each team, and announce the winning team as official Junior Geniuses!

JUNIOR GENIUS JEOPARDY!—MAPS AND GEOGRAPHY

1. This nation is 109 miles wide, on average, and 25 times that long from north to south.

2. This word can be used for an ancient Mediterranean civilization or for a resident of the capital of Arizona.

3. The name of this state in the United States is the fastest to say.

4. This state is the smallest state in the US and has the longest name.

5. This city changed its name from Hot Springs to win a radio contest.

6. This city was the former capital of Japan. Hint: you can mix up the letters of Tokyo to get the name.

7. This is the largest sandy desert in the world.

8. This city recorded the hottest temperature on Earth, at 134 degrees Fahrenheit.

9. This country holds the record for the world’s wettest spot, with eighty feet of rain every year.

10. This country’s name actually means “equator” in its native language.

Extra Credit: This structure is forty-two feet tall, housed in Yarmouth, Maine, and named Eartha.

JUNIOR GENIUS JEOPARDY!—GREEK MYTHOLOGY

1. The Greeks believed that this location, where Apollo’s oracle could be found, was the center of the world.

2. This is the only planet in our solar system not named after a Greek or Roman god.

3. This mythical goddess of victory is a famous sportswear line today.

4. This ten-letter Latin word meaning “horn of plenty” is based on a myth involving Zeus and his mother Rhea.

5. Boreas, Notus, Zephyrus, and Eurus were these special deities.

6. This son of Hermes was known for his flute playing and goat-like legs, and for being “the god of the wilds.”

7. This goddess, known as the goddess of night, was said to be revered even by Zeus.

8. This hero had one weakness, his unprotected heel, which became the cause of his death.
9. This is the city where the Sphinx sat outside Delphi, asking her famous riddle.
10. This popular modern-day kids’ book series is based on Greek mythology.

Here is a Jeopardy! Extra Credit Activity for Junior Geniuses!: There is a website called JeopardyLabs, where individuals create their own Jeopardy! questions using the Jeopardy! templates provided. You can access them online and use your questions in class or at home. The link is: JeopardyLabs.com. Feel free to create Jeopardy! questions for other books in Ken Jennings’ Junior Genius Guides series, including U.S. Presidents, Outer Space, and more. Have fun!

**ACTIVITIES**

These activities correlate with the following Common Core State Standards: (RI.3.4, 5) (RI.3–5.1) (RI.4.4) (RI.5.1, 5) (W.3–5.2)

**WRITING PROMPTS**

- As a group writing activity, each person in class writes one type of game question, a true/false, a multiple choice, and a response that is answered with a question. This can be challenging, so read the sentences carefully and try them out on a friend.

- Use these combined questions for a group activity in class. Be sure to have the page numbers and information to back up your answers.

- What did you learn from these Junior Genius guides that you never knew before? Try sharing one fact with a friend.

- There are many new vocabulary words in the stories and tales. Pick five of your favorite new words from the text and write definitions of what they mean, using the stories from the books to help you explain or define them.

- Some phrases based in Greek mythology are in use today: someone may have the “Midas touch” or an “Achilles heel.” Searching through Greek Mythology, you will find many examples of these phrases. Pick one and explain what it means and how people use it.

- Did some of the facts surprise you? Is there another source where you can confirm this fact? Pick a fact that intrigues you and find out more about it, using other books or encyclopedias. (Ask your librarian for some helpful books or online resources!) Write a short paragraph describing this fact and the research you did and what else you learned.

**MAKING A MAP**

Try your hand at cartography (mapmaking), using information from the guide. Create a map of your own house, school, town, state, country, or continent. You can include bodies of water, and any land features like streets, buildings, or mountains. Or use lines of longitude and latitude, the north and south poles, and the equator as reference points. This can be an imaginary map or one that represents a real area. It’s amazing to use these mapmaking skills and tools, so see what maps you can create!

**EXTRA CREDIT ACTIVITIES**

- Start a Junior Genius Club in your class, or with your friends. Create a secret handshake, make a Junior Genius badge or button, and award the Junior Genius certificate to new members. Read the motto, say the pledge, and continue to do your own research finding fun facts about maps and geography, mythology, and all future Ken Jennings’ Junior Genius Guides.

- Find the games within the guides. For example, the Alphabet Game using words from Maps and Geography: Begin with a country, city, state, ocean, mountain range, or geographic feature that starts with A. The next person takes the last letter of that...
word to start the next word. Players are eliminated if they cannot produce a word. For example, the first player says Arctic, the second could say China, the third could say Andes, the next player could say Seattle, and so on. The last person standing is the winner and gets another Junior Genius award. This same game can be used with names of gods and goddesses, constellations based on myths, deities, demigods, words from Greek mythology, and places in mythology. It can be played in any group setting. Other games to play include Medusa's Tag (in Greek Mythology), or you can create your own Pentathlon or Junior Genius Olympics!

- Two cooking suggestions from the guides, Mappetizers (from Maps and Geography) and Trojan Treats (from Greek Mythology), let you use your newfound knowledge in a fun way. Create an edible Earth of your design, then devour it! Build a cookie Trojan horse and reenact the siege of Troy! (Directions are in the guides.)

- Puns, double entendres, and wordplay are used throughout the guides, often as chapter breaks, and they add “secret” humor to those who get them. Find examples of these. After you have a good list, see if you can make up some of your own. Use them in your writing!

- Compare superheroes from comic books to the heroes from the Greek myths. How do they compare? Choose one superhero and one god or demigod and compare their specific powers, their gifts, and their weaknesses. Are they equals? Who would win in a battle between the two?

- Which Greek god or goddess would you choose to be and why?

- There are wonderful quizzes at the end of each guide, and oodles of activities in every chapter or “class period.” Try them, enjoy them, share them. There are hundreds of facts just waiting to be researched and explored by you, Junior Genius! Choose a favorite interest of your own, and try to find out everything you can about it.

## ANSWER KEY

### JUNIOR GENIUS TRUE OR FALSE QUIZ: MAPS AND GEOGRAPHY

1. True.
2. False. This small amount of water is not affected by the Coriolis effect.
3. True.
4. False. Mauna Kea in Hawaii is tallest from its base to its summit.
5. False. The Antarctic is a larger desert.
6. True. Pictorial maps were carved in stone.
7. True.
8. True. Cartographers make up names to trick copycats.
10. True.
11. False. It is the spot in the world’s oceans that is farthest from land.
12. False. Don Juan Pond in Antarctica is, and it is so salty that it never freezes, even in the Antarctic winter.
13. True.
14. True.
15. False. It is a giant city, like Mexico City.
16. True.
17. True.
18. False. It was a fifteen-year-old girl.
19. False. Thirteen stripes for the original thirteen states, and one star for each state, now at fifty.

20. True.

JUNIOR GENIUS TRUE OR FALSE QUIZ: GREEK MYTHOLOGY
1. True.
2. False. They believed in many gods.
3. True.
5. True.
6. True.
7. True.
8. False. Some nymphs were and some were not, but they could live very long lives, as many as 194,400 years!
9. False. They were originally told verbally and set to music, and chanted as epic poems.
10. True.

“WHO WANTS TO BE A JUNIOR GENIUS?” MULTIPLE CHOICE:
MAPS AND GEOGRAPHY
1. C
2. D
3. A
4. C
5. B
6. D
7. D
8. B
9. C
10. D

“WHO WANTS TO BE A JUNIOR GENIUS?” MULTIPLE CHOICE: GREEK MYTHOLOGY
1. D
2. C
3. B
4. D
5. C
6. B
7. A
8. C
9. C
10. C

JUNIOR GENIUS JEOPARDY!—MAPS AND GEOGRAPHY
1. What is Chile?
2. What is Phoenician?
3. What is Maine?
4. What is Rhode Island and Providence Plantations?
5. What is Truth or Consequences?
6. What is Kyoto?
7. What is the Arabian Desert?
8. What is Death Valley, California?
9. What is India?
10. What is Ecuador?
Extra Credit: What is the world’s biggest globe?

JUNIOR GENIUS JEOPARDY!—GREEK MYTHOLOGY
1. What is Delphi?
2. What is Earth?
3. Who is Nike?
4. What is cornucopia?
5. Who were the four winds?
6. Who is Pan?
7. Who was Nyx?
8. Who is Achilles?
9. What is Thebes?
10. What is the Percy Jackson & the Olympians series by Rick Riordan?

With all my fellow Junior Geniuses,
I solemnly pledge to quest after questions,
to angle for answers, to seek out, and
to soak up. I will hunger and thirst for
knowledge my whole life through, and I
dedicate my discoveries to all humankind,
with trivia not for just us but for all.