

## Newsround – Greece

The daily Must-know for Greece

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4 drachme



Medusa's head – an end of her terror

by Arthemis

The morning, the news spread all over Greece that Medusa, the lethal Gorgon, whose eyes have drawn the life out of many brave heroes, has finally found her match. Her last, vital task was to help Perseus save his mother Danae.

Just over 17 years Danae and her baby, named Perseus, were locked into a wooden chest and released into the sea by her husband King Acrisios of Argos

who believed a prophecy saying that Acrisios would be killed by Danae's son. After having been saved by the fisherman Dycitis, she lived freely, but soon got harassed by King Polydectes who wanted to add her to his collection of women. However, she rejected strongly until the time had come for Polydectes' patience to reach an end. Wanting to protect his mother, Perseus, a young, valiant hero, challenged the king and was tasked to bring him Medusa's head in exchange for his mother (no-one had ever returned from Medusa's lair).

Without fear, Perseus set off on this impossible task guarded by the Gods. Along his journey, he received Hermes' feathered shoes, Athene's shield and Pluto's invisibility helmet together with a bag. First, since he did not know where

Medusa could be found, he had to travel to the three Grey Sisters, who shared one eye. Using all his wit, he tricked them into telling him the way. Inside the cave, the shield served perfectly as a mirror and within moments Medusa was slayed. He packed her head into the back and set off home. Along the way, he slayed a serpent like sea monster and froze an entire army saving Andromeda who became his wife.

On his return, Perseus saved Danae from the altar and served Polydectes with his rightly punishment. The crowds cheered, "Hurray to Perseus who has achieved the impossible." The world was now rid of a terrible tyrant and Dycitis the new king together with his queen Danae. During the sporting festivities to celebrate the wedding, an unforeseen discus-throw fulfilled fate.