

ND THE MINOTAUR CONTINUED

ne came for the next victims to go  
seus said he would go as one of  
to kill the Minotaur. The king  
r his son. He could hardly bear  
ews, and asked the sailors who  
s to Crete to hoist white sails  
eturned if all was well and  
alive.

nized Theseus among the  
nd taunted him about who his  
le dared Theseus to prove he was  
seidon by retrieving a ring that he  
e sea. Theseus dived after it,  
Poseidon for help. The **nerheids**  
ng for him and **Amphitrite**  
m with the crown worn by **Thetis**  
ing day. He emerged from the  
phant with Minos's ring and the

abyrinth

ghter, **Ariadne**, fell in love with  
en she saw him among the  
e offered to help him kill the  
ne would marry her and he agreed.  
n a magic ball of twine. He tied one  
trance of the maze, then followed  
nd and led him into the centre of  
h where the Minotaur lurked.

turn

terrible fight, but Theseus  
e Minotaur at last and followed  
ked by the magic twine out of the  
eading the other young Athenians,  
en saved from their Fate.

d by boat and took Ariadne with  
eir way home they stopped at the  
xos. Here, while Ariadne was  
grateful Theseus sailed off  
forgetting that he owed his  
er and had promised to marry her.  
oke up alone and realized she had  
oned, she cried to the gods for

nyesus, happened to be passing  
after. He saw Ariadne and fell in

love with her. She became his wife and he  
soon granted her revenge by making Theseus  
so glad to be going home that he forgot to give  
the order to raise white sails and approached  
Athens with black sails on the mast. When  
Aegeus saw them, he believed his son must be  
dead, jumped into the sea and drowned  
himself in despair. The sea where this  
happened was called Aegean after him.

### What became of Theseus

In these sad circumstances, Theseus became  
king of Athens in his father's place. He  
married **Hippolyte**, an **Amazon** queen. She  
later died fighting at Theseus's side in battle.  
Their son, **Hippolytus**, was killed through the  
wickedness of Theseus's jealous second wife,  
**Phaedra** (see page 25).

After these tragic deaths, Theseus became  
careless of his kingly duties and went  
adventuring again. He kidnapped the young  
**Helen** of Troy (see page 41), whose brothers  
had to raid Athens to rescue her. He also went  
to Tartarus with his friend, **Pirithous**, who  
planned to snatch **Persephone**. They were  
caught by the gods and put in chains of  
forgetfulness. Theseus was later rescued by  
**Heracles** but while he was away, his throne  
was taken from him.

Theseus settled on the island of Scyros, and  
died there, but his love for Athens outlasted  
his death. When the city was about to lose the  
battle of Marathon, his ghost appeared to  
inspire the troops and led them to victory.  
After that his body was brought home and  
buried with honours in Athens.

### Amazons

The Amazons were a mythical race of warrior  
women from south-west Asia. They were very  
fierce and were not generally sympathetic to  
men. They were sometimes said to cut their  
right breast off so they could draw their  
bowstring more easily.

# HERACLES

One of the Greeks' favourite heroes  
was **Heracles**. You may know him as  
Hercules, which is the Roman version  
of his name. He was exceptionally  
strong and brave, but **Hera** made his  
life extremely difficult as he reminded  
her of **Zeus's** infidelity (see page 23).

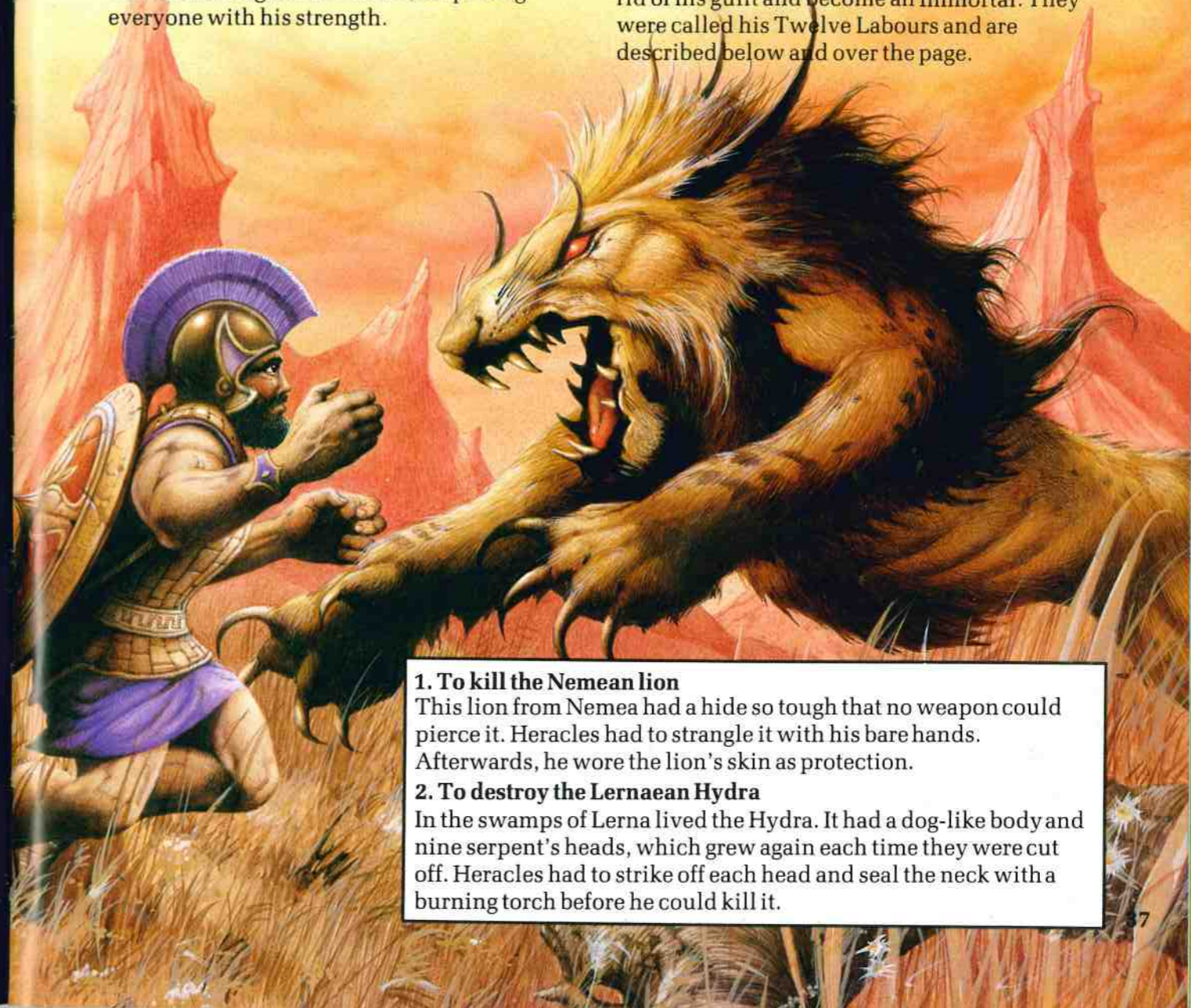
### The baby Heracles

When Heracles was a baby, Hera sent two  
deadly serpents to his cradle to kill him.  
Heracles strangled them both, surprising  
everyone with his strength.

### Hera's revenge

Heracles married **Megara**, had a family and  
became famous for his great courage. Hera  
was jealous of his happiness and drove him  
mad so that he killed his wife and children.  
When he recovered and saw what he had  
done he was horrified and asked the **Oracle**  
how he could make amends. He was told to  
offer himself as a slave to King **Eurystheus**.

Eurystheus set Heracles twelve "impossible"  
tasks. If he could do them all, he would get  
rid of his guilt and become an Immortal. They  
were called his Twelve Labours and are  
described below and over the page.



### 1. To kill the Nemean lion

This lion from Nemea had a hide so tough that no weapon could pierce it. Heracles had to strangle it with his bare hands. Afterwards, he wore the lion's skin as protection.

### 2. To destroy the Lernaean Hydra

In the swamps of Lerna lived the Hydra. It had a dog-like body and nine serpent's heads, which grew again each time they were cut off. Heracles had to strike off each head and seal the neck with a burning torch before he could kill it.