



3. To capture the Cerynean hind alive

This deer had hooves of bronze, horns of gold and was sacred to **Artemis**. Catching it alive was even more difficult than killing it. Heracles stalked it for a whole year before being able to catch it in a net and carry it to **Eurystheus**.

4. To trap the Erymanthian boar

Heracles drove the enormous, fierce creature into a deep snowdrift and when it was trapped he tied it with chains.

5. To clean the Augean stables

The stables of King **Augeus** had not been cleaned for years and were piled high with dung. Heracles was told to clean them thoroughly in one day. Not even Heracles could have done it by himself. He succeeded, though, by diverting the course of a nearby river so that it swept through the stables and washed all the muck away.

6. To get rid of the Stymphalian birds

These were man-eating birds with bronze beaks, claws and wings. Heracles startled them with a great shout so that they flew up, then shot them with his arrows.



7. To capture the Cretan bull

This bull was father of the **Minotaur** (see page 34). It ran wild on Crete, causing great damage. Heracles managed to master the animal and take it back to **Eurystheus** by boat.



8. To round up the mares of Diomedes

These horses fed on human flesh and were extremely wild. Their master was called **Diomedes**. Heracles killed Diomedes first and fed him to the mares. When they were full they were relatively calm and he got them under control.

9. To fetch Hippolyte's girdle, or belt

Hippolyte was Queen of the **Amazons** (see page 36). She was quite happy to give Heracles her girdle, but **Hera** made the Amazons think he was hurting her, so they attacked and he had to fight their whole army to get the belt.

10. To fetch the cattle of Geryon



These cattle lived on an island in the far west, guarded by **Orthrus**, a two-headed dog, and the herdsman **Geryon** who had three bodies above the waist. Heracles killed them both and drove the cattle home. On his way west, he placed two pillars, one in Spain and one in Morocco, to guard the Mediterranean.

11. To fetch the golden apples of the Hesperides

The golden apples belonged to **Hera**. They were kept by the **Hesperides** who were the daughters of the Titan, **Atlas**.

Heracles did not know where the Hesperides kept the apples so he went to ask their father. **Atlas** had to support the weight of the heavens on his shoulders (see page 9), but he said that if Heracles would just take his place for a while, he would go and fetch the apples himself. Heracles agreed and **Atlas** set off.



12. To bring Cerberus from Tartarus

Cerberus was a monstrous, three-headed dog who guarded the gates of the Underworld and prevented anyone leaving the land of the dead. **Pluto** gave Heracles permission to take **Cerberus** as long as he did not use any weapons. The hero had to drag the struggling animal all the way to the court of **Eurystheus**.

Other adventures

Heracles had many other adventures. On one journey he killed the eagle that tormented **Prometheus** and freed him (see pages 20-21). He sailed with the **Argonauts** (see pages 32-33) and also freed **Theseus** from his chains in the Underworld (see page 36). He still suffered fits of madness sent by **Hera**, until he was finally cured by the witch, **Medea**.

The death of Heracles

Heracles later married **Deianeira** and they had several children, but **Hera** finally caused his death. She tricked **Deianeira** into giving Heracles a magic robe. She told her the magic would keep Heracles faithful to her, but in fact it was poisoned. The shirt caused agony when he put it on and he could not remove it. He had a funeral pyre built and climbed on it to die and escape the pain. **Zeus** snatched his son from the fire and took him to Mount **Olympus**, where he became an Immortal.