

Odysseus and Cyclops



A long time ago, there was an island in the sea called Sicily. The sun shone every day on this island. The sea that surrounded the island was very blue.

On this island, there lived Cyclops. He had one eye and he was a giant.

One day, a man called Odysseus sailed to the island with his men. They went onto the island to explore. They found a cave and looked inside.

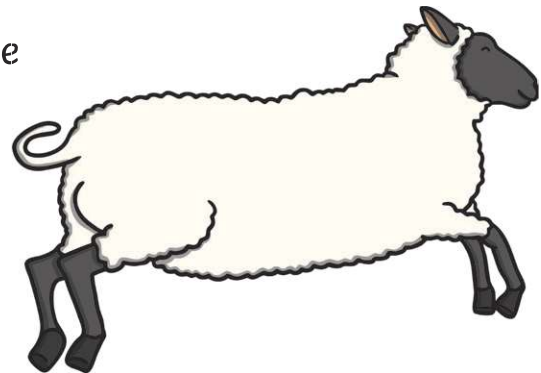
They found lambs, goats and cheese and milk. The men wanted to steal the food but Odysseus said no, so they lit a fire and waited for the owner to arrive.



Cyclops came to the cave and said, "Who are you?" He saw the men near his food and was very angry and shouted, "You will not eat my cheese or drink my milk!"

He grabbed two of the men and ate them for dinner. He then took a big rock and put it in front of the door of the cave so that the men could not get out.

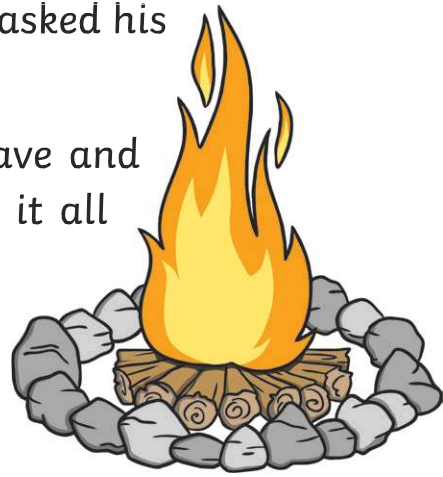
Odysseus spent a long time thinking



of how to get out. He saw a big stick and asked his men to make it sharp.

That night, Cyclops came back to the cave and Odysseus gave him wine. Cyclops drank it all and fell into a deep sleep.

Odysseus and his men saw their chance and put the sharp stick into Cyclops' eye. The Cyclops screamed and shouted, "I am blind! I am blind!"



Odysseus saw the animals starting to run away and told his men to tie themselves underneath the sheep so that they could also escape from the cave. Cyclops felt each animal as it left to check that nobody was riding away on its back. He never found the men hiding below.

Odysseus and his men knew that they had got far enough away from Cyclops, so they untied themselves from the sheep and ran back to the beach. They got into their boat and sailed away, leaving Cyclops alone on the island.



Questions

1. What was the name of the island?

2. What did Cyclops look like?

3. What did the men find on the island?

4. What was in the cave?

5. What did the men eat and drink?

6. What happened when Cyclops drank the wine?

7. How did the men escape?

Answers

1. What was the name of the island?
The island was called Sicily.
2. What did Cyclops look like?
He was very tall and had one eye.
3. What did the men find on the island?
They found a cave.
4. What was in the cave?
There were animals and cheese and milk.
5. What did the men eat and drink?
They ate cheese and drank milk.
6. What happened when Cyclops drank the wine?
He fell fast asleep.
7. How did the men escape?
They tied themselves underneath the sheep.