

Name:

Period:

The Odyssey Unit: Color and Homer's World Homework

Instructions: Listen to "Why Isn't the Sky Blue?," a RadioLab podcast on the use of color in Homer's Odyssey. You can access this podcast at <http://www.radiolab.org/story/211213-sky-isnt-blue>. (The podcast is about 20 minutes long.) Answer the following questions:

1. What was William Gladstone's strange discovery about the works of Homer?
2. What color were the sheep that Homer described at the Cyclops' cave?
3. What colors were most mentioned in the Odyssey and the Iliad? Which colors were less frequently mentioned? Which color is never mentioned?
4. What was Gladstone's theory about the Ancient Greeks that would explain these strange occurrences?
5. What did Geiger discover about language and color? (You will need to make a list to fully answer this question.)
6. Explain the podcast's hosts' explanation for the pattern in question #5.
7. What was interesting about the tribe from Namibia described in the podcast?
8. Explain what categorization has to do with language and color.
9. What is the problem with the theory described in #6?
10. What happened when the scientist asked his daughter what color the sky was?

