

THE GORGONS OF ANCIENT GREEK MYTH

were three monsters, the sisters Stheno, Eurayle and **Medusa**. On their heads grew coiling and hissing snakes. Their teeth were giant boar tusks, their hands were made of bronze and they had wings of gold.

Their bodies were covered with impenetrable scales.

The gorgons lived in the west, near the ocean, and guarded the entrance to the underworld. The very sight of a gordon could turn a person into stone. The most famous story of the gorgons is how the hero

Perseus craftilly cut off the head of Medusa by looking at her reflection in a mirror. Perseus kept Medusa's unsightly head in bag and used it against his other adversaries. He eventually gave Medusa's head to Athena, daughter of Zeus and goddess of war, who

placed the head on her shield as a threat to her enemies. The Gorgons were very popular subjects in greek art and appeared in vase paintings, as sculpture and architectural carvings. Medusa was also a popular subject with artists during the Renaissance, Baroque and Romantic periods. Ancient Greek artists exaggerated the facial features of the gorgons to make them look more ferocious and ugly. Cartoonists today use exaggeration to create all kinds of facial expressions. Create an ugly face for your shield. There is no right way to create a Medusa head and face. just make them as ugly as possible. You can copy the medusa head here or use the suggestions below to create something more original.



Materials

boxboard rounds

pencils

markers

rope for handles

The following are some suggestions for drawing an ugly face. Please read them through before beginning. Remember: *Ugly* is in the eye of the beholder. When working on the shield draw big to fill the the space with your design. Make sure your drawing touches the outside edge of the shield in at least one place.

Step 1. With a black marker or pencil draw an oval or circular head shape on the shield form..

Step 2. Add snake-like or wild looking hair hair.

Step 3. Draw a light line down the middle of the face with a pencil.

Step 4. On each side of the line draw an eye using an exaggerated shape. Draw them extra big or small, wide open or squinted. Draw the eyebrows lifted high or bring them down just above the eyes. Make the brows bushy or thin or in between.

Step 5. Draw the nose and mouth. Exaggerate the nose. Make it fat or long and pointed. Add some warts to it if you wish. The mouth can be big or small too. Draw it open or closed, drooped at the corners or turned up. Make it full of teeth or have it missing teeth. Add large tusks and a long dangly tongue.

Step 6. Add furrows around the mouth and between the eyebrows

Step 7. Add wrinkles to the forehead.

Step 8 Add color to your shield by filling in the shapes created by your drawing. Repeat the colors throughout your design to create balance and unity.

Step 9. Push rope handles through the holes and tie off with knots.

Step 10. Like Athena and Perseus, turn all of your adversaries into stone.



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