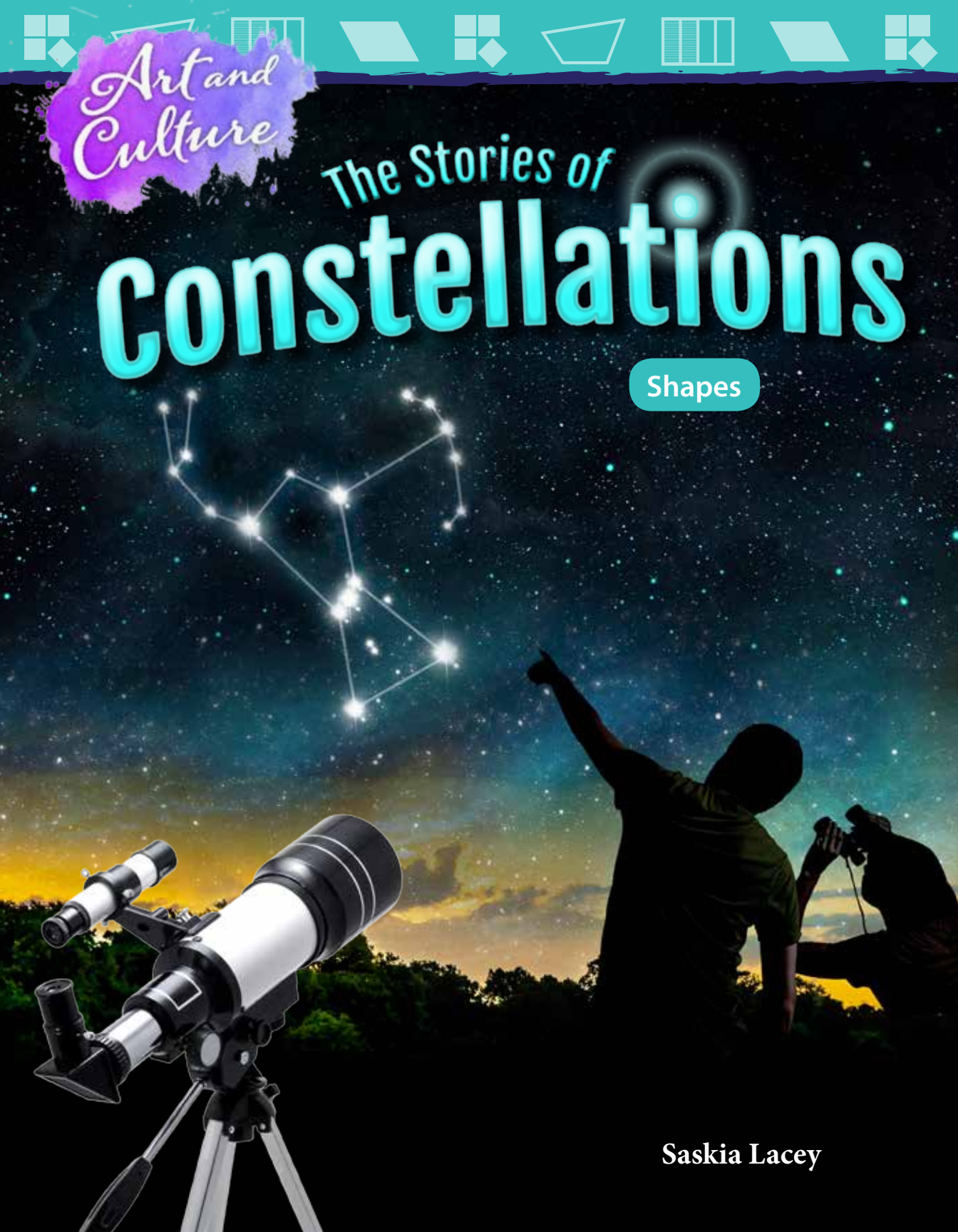
Art and Culture

The Stories of Constellations

Shapes



Saskia Lacey

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Table of Contents

Attributes of Ancient Myths 4

Constellations 8

Myth and Meaning 25

Star Stories 27

Problem Solving 28

Glossary 30

Index 31

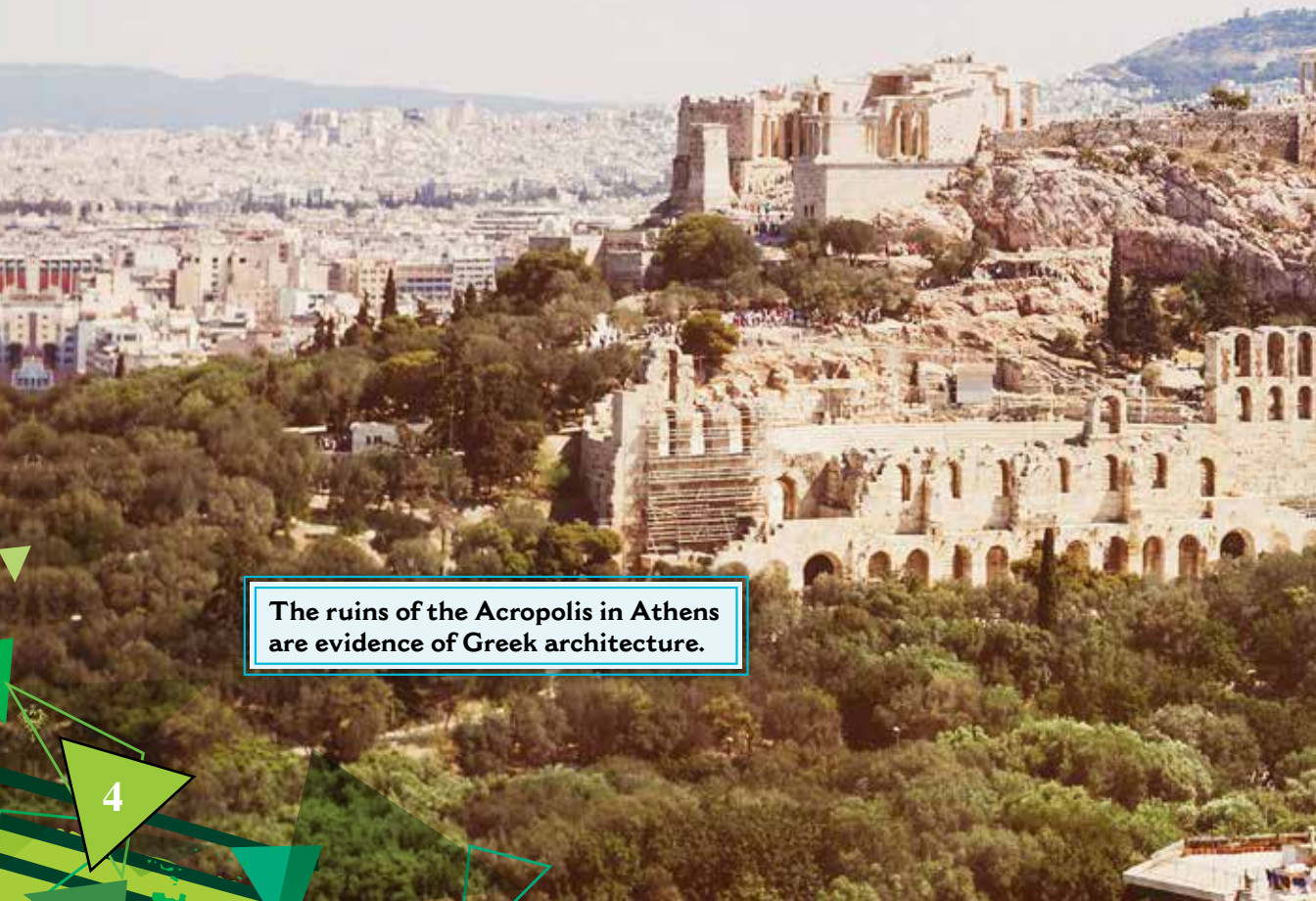
Answer Key 32

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Attributes of Ancient Myths

Meet the ancient Greeks. They lived thousands of years ago. Some of history's greatest minds came from early Greece. They invented many things. They built the first theaters. They developed **democracy**. They even built the first showers! Modern society owes much to early Greek culture.

Mythology was very important to the Greeks. They believed in many gods and goddesses. Each had unique **attributes**, or traits. Some gods were known for their strength. Others were known for their wisdom. Still others were praised for their beauty.



The ruins of the Acropolis in Athens are evidence of Greek architecture.

For teachers' inspection ONLY



The Parthenon is the ancient temple to Athena.

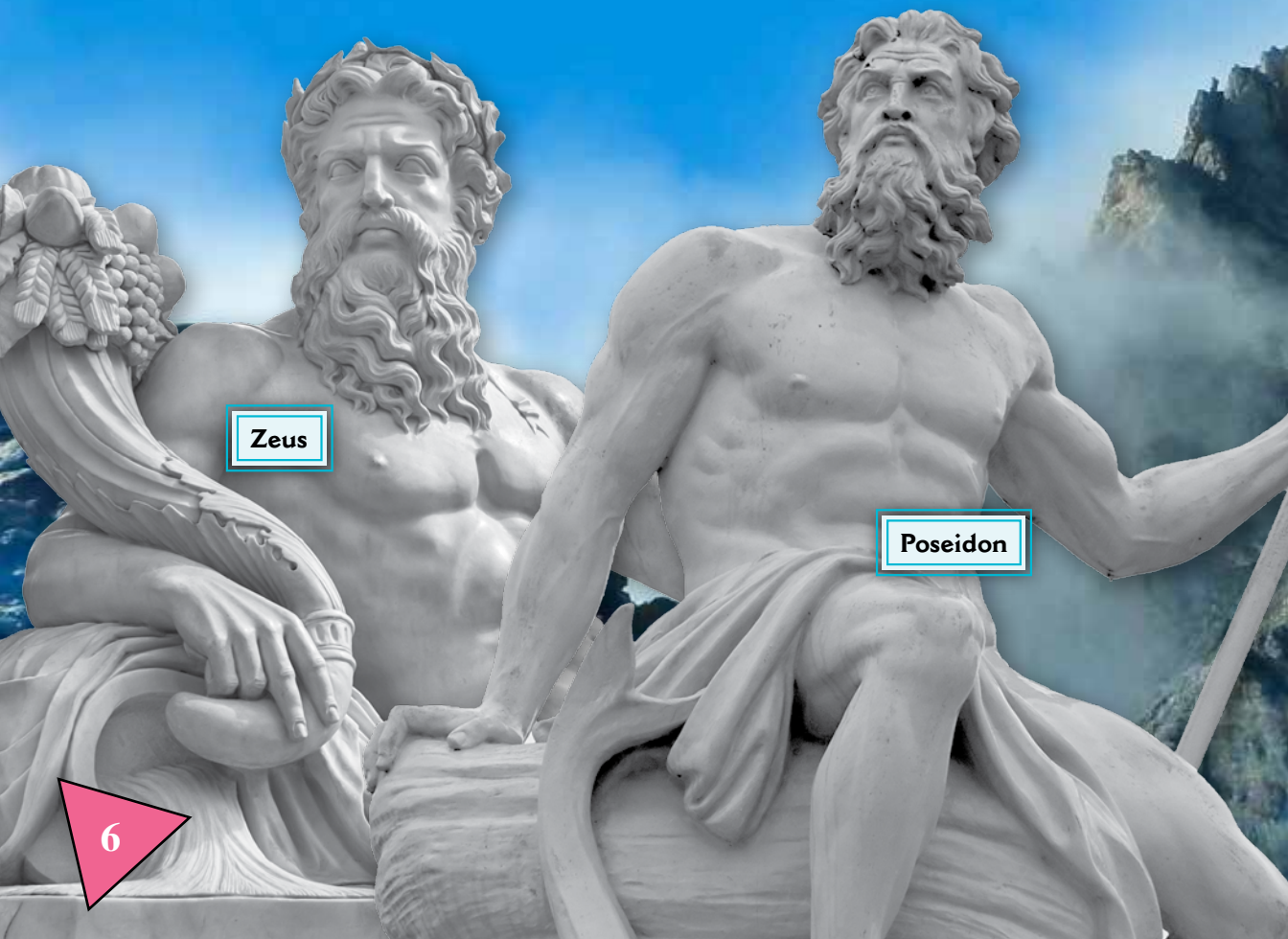
The city of Athens is named for the Greek goddess Athena.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

The Greeks believed that gods and goddesses commanded the forces of nature. They ruled lightning and thunder. They created waves and wind. Each part of nature came from great and unseen powers.

The gods made their home on Mount Olympus. Their ruler was Zeus (zoos), the sky god. Zeus had two brothers, Poseidon (puh-SY-dehn) and Hades (HAY-deez). Poseidon was the god of the seas. Hades was the god of the dead.

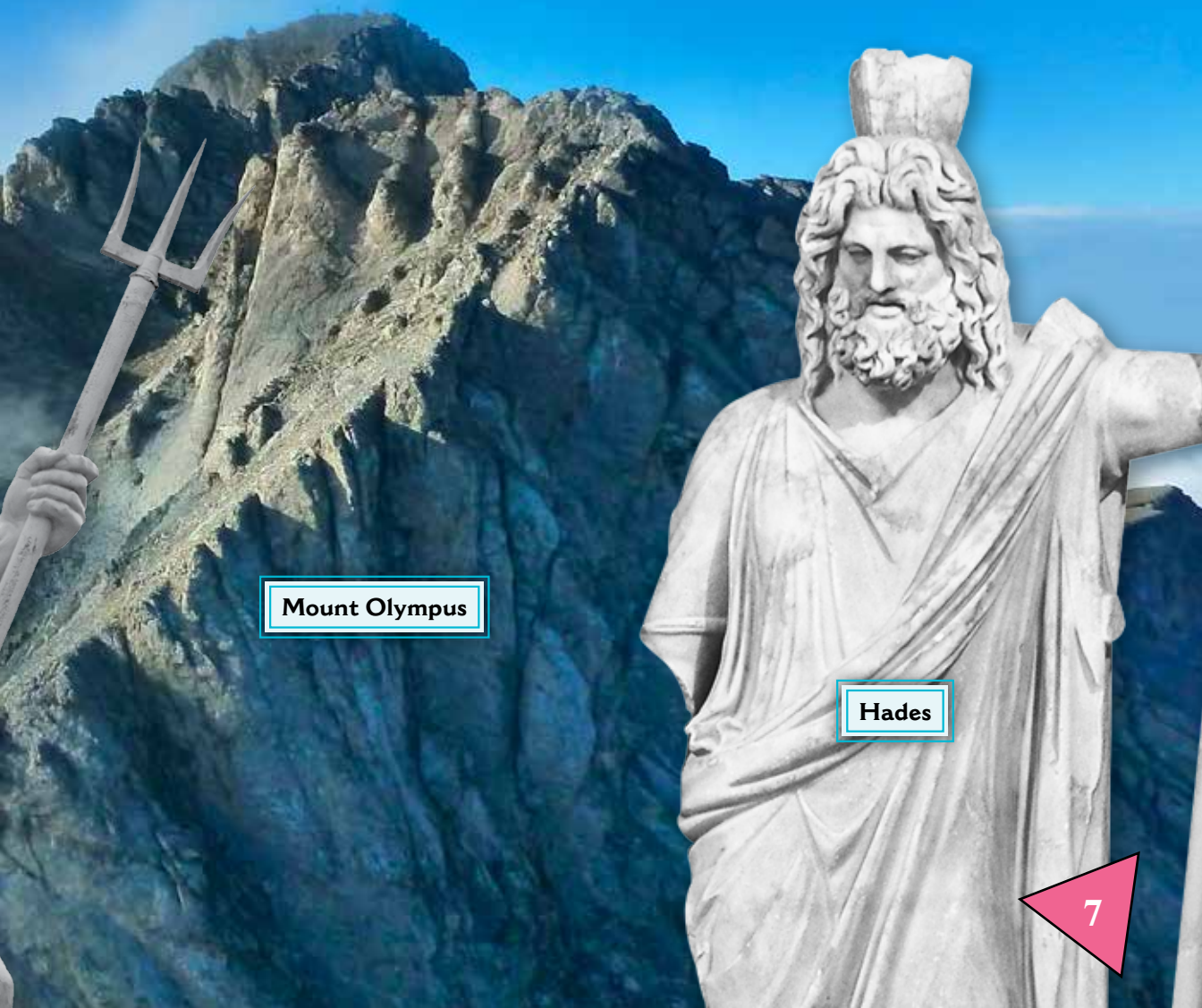
In some ways, the three brothers were alike. Each brother was immortal, had great power, and ruled over a realm of Earth. They shared these attributes with one another.



For teachers' inspection ONLY

In other ways, the brothers were different. Zeus was known for his power. Poseidon was thought to be moody. Hades was stern. They each ruled a different level of Earth. Zeus ruled the sky, Poseidon ruled the water, and Hades ruled the underworld. These attributes made them unique.

But attributes are not just used to describe gods and goddesses. They describe many things, such as trees, animals, or even shapes!



Constellations

The Greeks saw shapes in the patterns of stars. They named **constellations** after their familiar myths. This made the stars easier to identify. Today, these stories live on as great shapes in the night sky!



This map shows Greek constellations.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Orion the Hunter

Chances are that you have seen Orion's Belt. It's part of a famous constellation that is named after Orion the Hunter. There are many versions of his birth. Some believe he was the son of Poseidon. Others think he was born from the ground. In any case, the attributes of this star pattern tell us his story. He has a club in one hand. A lion's skin is in the other. These represent his hunting skills. Orion is also wearing a large belt. Its size is a sign of power.



Mythical hero Orion uses his club to battle a lion.

If you look carefully at the constellation, there are lines and angles. There are also shapes called **polygons**. Polygons have certain attributes. They must have at least three straight **sides**, and they must be closed figures.

For teachers' inspection ONLY



Orion constellation

LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Are these shapes polygons? Explain your reasoning for each.

1. 

2. 

3. 