

Real and Imaginary Places in the Odyssey



▲ **Critical Viewing** The entrance to the Land of the Dead is believed to be the Strait of Gibraltar. Why might the ancient Greeks have considered this location frightening? [Analyze]

Beyond Literature Geography Connection

Tracing Odysseus' Route Odysseus' journey carries him to real places, such as Troy and Sparta, as well as to fictitious places, such as Aeolia and Aeaea. In modern times, historians and explorers have tried to retrace the epic journey of Odysseus to determine the actual locations of the places with fictional names and thus to determine Odysseus' exact route. What follows is just one of many theories of the actual route of Odysseus: From Troy in present-day Turkey, Odysseus proceeded briefly northward and then southwestward on the Aegean Sea, passing between the Greek

lands of Peloponnesus and Crete. Then, sailing westward on the Mediterranean Sea, Odysseus traveled near Sicily, where he found the Cyclops and where nearby islands were homes to the Lotus Eaters, the Sirens, and Aeolus, among others. After circling Sicily clockwise, Odysseus sailed northeastward and finally reached the Ionian Islands of Greece and his home, Ithaca.

Activity Choose either another piece of literature or a movie in which one or more characters take a journey. Draw a map of that journey.