

Leo (Hercules)

Nemaea (nih-MY-yah)

Hercules was the favorite son of Zeus. He was the mightiest of all the heroes.

Hercules was known for his great strength, courage, and agility.

Zeus's wife, Hera, was jealous of Hercules and schemed many times to get Zeus to turn against Hercules. She sent Hercules on Twelve different Labors designed to get him to fail. Instead, Hercules not only completed these twelve tasks, but did them in such a way as to become even more a favorite of his father.

The first of these labors Hera sent him to do was to rid the land of a terrible lion.

Leo was a ferocious lion in the forests of Nemaea. He feasted on the animals of the forest and also caught and ate many human beings.

Many brave men lost their lives trying to kill this giant lion. Because its skin was so tough, no arrow or spear could pierce it.

Knowing he could not use a spear or an arrow, Hercules entered the lion's cave and was able to kill the terrible lion using his powerful arms.

Hercules exited the cave wearing the lion's pelt as a robe.

Hercules had saved the people of Nemaea. This great act of heroism was celebrated by Zeus when he placed the constellation of the defeated lion in the night sky.