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Her·cu·les  (hûr kyə-lēz')

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n.

1. also **Her·a·cles** or **Her·a·kles** (hěŕ ə-klēz') *Greek & Roman Mythology* The son of Zeus and Alcmene, a hero of extraordinary strength who won immortality by performing 12 labors demanded by the Argive king Eurystheus.
2. A constellation in the Northern Hemisphere near Lyra and Corona Borealis.

[Latin, from Greek *Hēraklēs* : *Hērā*, Hera + *kleos*, fame; see **kleu-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



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Hercules

detail of a c. 500 bc black-figure amphora showing Hercules killing the lion of Nemea

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

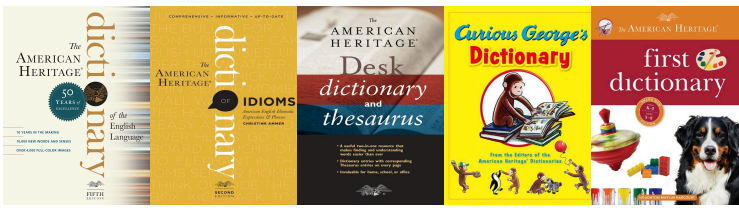
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