

Name: _____

Some Ancient and Eponymous Adjectives

Directions: Look up each of the following six eponymous adjectives in the Visual Thesaurus to find out their meanings and from which ancient figure they derive their meanings (scroll over the gray dashed “derived from” relationship lines).

1.

Changing laws — a **Herculean** task in its own right — will likely prove easier than changing attitudes.

— *Time*, Sep 21, 2011

The word *herculean* is derived from _____, a figure
from ancient _____ who was known for _____

In the previous sentence, *herculean* means:

2.

The 10 cast members are all charmingly resourceful and **protean**.

— *New York Times* Sep 11, 2011

The word *protean* is derived from _____, a figure
from ancient _____ who was known for _____

In the previous sentence, *protean* means:

3.

The two men share a mindset forged by military discipline and the country's **draconian** security measures.

— *Wall Street Journal* Feb 10, 2011

The word *draconian* is derived from _____, a figure
from ancient _____ who was known for _____

In the previous sentence, *draconian* means:

4.

Focusing on Bryan, MTV seems to be saying that changing the world is slow work, generally unglamorous and often **Sisyphean**.

— *Slate* Nov 4, 2011

The word *sisyphean* is derived from _____, a figure
from ancient _____ who was known for _____

In the previous sentence, *sisyphean* means:

5.

Then something sad happens at the end to make his victory seem hollow and **pyrrhic**.

— *The Guardian* Jan 7, 2011

The word *pyrrhic* is derived from _____, a figure
from ancient _____ who was known for _____

In the previous sentence, *pyrrhic* means:

6.

This **epicurean** playground, the perfect place to get your spread for the polo match, stocks everything from foie gras and baked snapper to chicken salad.

— *Southern Living* Mar 31, 2010

The word *epicurean* is derived from _____, a figure
from ancient _____ who was known for _____

In the previous sentence, *epicurean* means:
