

Notes on illustration on facing page

Odysseus' voyages

Odysseus' long journey from Troy to Ithaca took ten years, seven of which were spent on Calypso's island and one year on Circe's island. Although there have been many attempts to relate Odysseus' travels to the geography of the Mediterranean (and sometimes beyond), there is of course a fundamental problem when linking mythical events and places to the real world – there is no evidence that any of them, other than Troy and Ithaca (the start and end points), ever really existed. Nevertheless, the desire to root Odysseus' journey in reality is a strong one, and the route shown here, although complete conjecture, may help children picture Odysseus' voyages in their heads.

