A MYTH GOOD FOR A MILE

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The American poet Hart Crane (1899 - 1932) sang of "that great Bridge, our Myth," but it is another kind of myth that bridges the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome and our own. See how many common English words you can identify that are derived from Greek myth in the quiz below. Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

1. A word for tranquil or unruffled, derived from the belief in a sea bird that hatched its young in a floating nest during the solstice calm.
2. A monster, half woman, half serpent, who sucked the blood of children.
3. A person of great size or strength, from the race of giants which overthrew Uranus.
4. Airtight, from a thrice-powerful Greek god.
5. Tease, after a son of Zeus who was tortured repeatedly.
6. A foolish fancy, after a monster supposed to have a lion's head, a goat's body, and a serpent's tail.
7. Man's uncontrollable sexual desire, after a woodland deity.
8. A repetition, from a nymph who pined away for Narcissus.
9. Cupbearer, after a favorite of Zeus.
10. Waitress, after another cupbearer of Olympus.
11. Self-love, after a man who was entranced by his reflection in a pool.
12. Dual-sexed, after the offspring of those the Romans later called Venus and Mercury.
13. A frightening monster, from the Greek for terrible.
15. A nagging woman, from the Greek for snatcher.
16. Retribution, from the goddess of vengeance.
17. Flower, supposedly sprung from the blood of a doomed youth.
18. A triple plumbing connection, from an infernal dog.
19. A jellyfish, after a gorgon with wild hair.
20. A container for decanters, after a son of Zeus.
22. A rich man, after an underworld character.
23. A vast expanse of water, after the oldest of the Titans.
25. Drink, from the Greek for death-defeating.
26. A water connection, from a many-headed serpent.
27. A watch, from a chief god.
28. To browbeat, from an ancient hero.
29. An advisor, from an ancient friend of Ulysses.