

# OCTOBER-EBOOK



## VOCABULARY HUNTERS

VOCABULARY & WEB 2.0 TOOLS

ETWINNING PROJECT



## OUROBOROS

The Ouroboros is a Greek word meaning "tail **devourer**," and is one of the oldest mystical symbols in the world. It can be **perceived** as enveloping itself, where the past (the tail) appears to disappear but really moves into an inner domain or reality, vanishing from view but still existing.

The ouroboros has several meanings **interwoven** into it. Foremost is the symbolism of the serpent biting, devouring, or eating its own tail. This symbolizes the cyclic Nature of the Universe: creation out of destruction, Life out of Death. The ouroboros eats its own tail to **sustain** its life, in an **eternal** cycle of renewal. It is sometimes depicted in a lemniscate shape (figure eight) as well.

The Serpent biting its own tail is first seen as early as 1600 years BC in Egypt as a symbol of the sun, and represented the travels of the sun disk. From there it moved to the Phoenicians and then to the Greeks, who gave it its name, Ouroboros, which means devouring its tail.

In mythology, the Oroborus is a symbol representing the Milky Way galaxy. Myth refers to a serpent of light residing in the heavens. The Milky Way is this serpent, and viewed at galactic central point near Sagittarius, this **serpent** eats its own tail. Many ancients used the galaxy to calculate cosmic and earth cycles.

It is found in Gnosticism and alchemy representing cyclical natural life and the fusion of opposites. It also symbolizes the transcendence of duality and was related to the solar God Abraxas, and **signified eternity** and the soul of the world.

In alchemy, it represents the spirit of Mercury (the substance that permeates all matter), and symbolizes continuous **renewal** (a snake is often a symbol of resurrection, as it appears to be continually reborn as it sheds its skin.), the cycle of life and death, and harmony of opposites. As a symbol of the eternal unity of all things, the cycle of birth and death from which the alchemist sought release and liberation. It **unites** opposites: the conscious and unconscious mind. Alchemically, the ouroboros is also used as a **purifying** glyph.

### SYNONYMS



OUROBOROS SYNONYMS

### ANTONYMS



OUROBOROS-ANTONYMS

### FILL IN THE BLANKS



OUROBOROS

### VOCABULARY GAME



Kahoot!

## HYPATIA

Hypatia of Alexandria was a Greek Alexandrian Neoplatonist philosopher in Egypt. As head of the Platonist school at Alexandria, she taught philosophy and astronomy. As a Neoplatonist philosopher, she belonged to the mathematic tradition of the Academy of Athens, as represented by Eudoxus of Cnidus; she was of the intellectual school of the 3rd century thinker Plotinus, which encouraged logic and mathematical study in place of empirical enquiry and strongly encouraged law in place of nature. For followers of Plotinus the life of reason had as its **ultimate** goal mystical union with the divine.

According to **contemporary** sources, Hypatia was murdered by a Christian mob after being accused of exacerbating a **conflict** between two **prominent** figures in Alexandria: the governor Orestes and the Bishop of Alexandria. Kathleen Wider proposes that the murder of Hypatia marked the end of Classical antiquity, and Stephen Greenblatt observes that her murder "effectively marked the downfall of Alexandrian intellectual life".

The mathematician and philosopher Hypatia of Alexandria was the daughter of the mathematician Theon Alexandricus (c. 335 – c. 405). She was educated at Athens. Around AD 400, she became head of the Platonist school at Alexandria, where she **imparted** the knowledge of Plato and Aristotle to students, including pagans, Christians, and foreigners. Although contemporary 5th-century sources identify Hypatia of Alexandria as a practitioner and teacher of the philosophy of Plato and Plotinus, two hundred years later, the 7th-century Egyptian Coptic bishop John of Nikiû identified her as a Hellenistic pagan and that "she was devoted at all times to magic, astrolabes and instruments of music, and she **beguiled** many people through her Satanic wiles". However, not all Christians were as **hostile** towards her: some Christians even used Hypatia as symbolic of Virtue.

The contemporary Christian historiographer Socrates Scholasticus described her in Ecclesiastical History: " There was a woman at Alexandria named Hypatia, daughter of the philosopher Theon, who made such **attainments** in literature and science, as to far **surpass** all the philosophers of her own time. Having succeeded to the school of Plato and Plotinus, she explained the principles of philosophy to her auditors, many of whom came from a distance to receive her instructions. On account of the self-possession and ease of manner which she had acquired in **consequence** of the cultivation of her mind, she not infrequently appeared in public in the presence of the magistrates. Neither did she feel abashed in going to an assembly of men. For all men on account of her extraordinary dignity and virtue admired her the more. "

### SYNONYMS



HYPATHIA SYNON...

### ANTONYMS



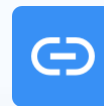
HYPATHIA-ANTONY...

### DEFINITIONS



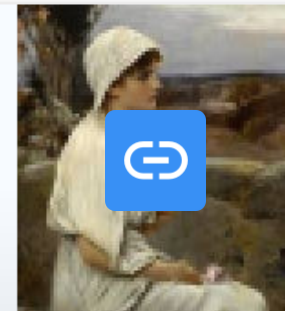
DEFINITIONS

### FILL IN THE BLANKS



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### WORD GAME



Hypatia-word game

### WHERE DOES THE NAME "EUROPE" COME FROM?

There are a number of theories. Taking a linguistic **approach**, some scholars believe Europe's name is **descriptive** in origin. Those who look to the ancient Greek language to **parse** its roots combine *eurys*, meaning "wide," and *ops*, meaning "face" or "eye," to arrive at "wide-gazing" as an **appropriate** description of Europe's broad shoreline as seen from the shipboard perspective of the maritime Greeks. By extension, they believe this phrase connotes "mainland." Adventurous travelers who got closer to the northern lands reported the existence of mountain systems and river basins that were much larger than those of the Mediterranean region, along with climates that were very different from those the Greeks experienced, not to mention expansive disc forests and **sweeping** steppes.

Other scholars have argued that the origin for the name *Europe* is to be found in the Semitic Akkadian language that was spoken in ancient Mesopotamia. They point to the Akkadian word *erebu*, meaning "sunset," and reason that, from the Mesopotamian perspective, the western-setting sun **descended** on Europe. As a corollary, they **cite** the Akkadian word for sunrise, *asu*, from which they believe the name *Asia* is derived. From a Mesopotamian ground zero, the eastern-rising sun would have **ascended** from Asia.

A competing theory locates the eponym for Europe in mythology, specifically in the many versions of stories about the goddess Europa, some of which date back millennia. One of the oldest versions identifies Europa as one of the Oceanides, the 3,000 sea nymphs who occupied a lower tier in the hierarchy of Greek mythology. Europa was one of only 41 of these minor deities who were thought worthy of naming. Other versions link Europa with Demeter, the goddess of earth and agriculture. Although it is not certain which name came first, it has been **presumed** that *Europa* was a local pre-Greek name for an earth goddess, whereas *Demeter* is a Greek or Greekified name for a more regional deity. In the best-known version of the Europa myth, Europa—the daughter either of Phoenix or of Agenor, king of Phoenicia—was **abducted** by Zeus, who had **disguised** himself as a white bull. Zeus spirited her away from Phoenicia to Crete, where she bore him three sons: Minos, Rhadamanthys, and Sarpedon.

### SYNONYMS



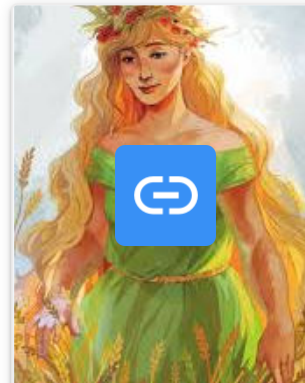
EUROPE SYNONYMS

### ANTONYMS



EUROPE ANTONYMS

### QUIZ



EUROPE - Quiz

### FILL IN THE BLANKS



EUROPE - FILL IN THE B...