Odysseus and the Trojan Horse

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1 *The Ancient Greek commander Odysseus led his army to war with Troy.*

2 The Greek army tried their best to climb the walls and to break down the gates of the Trojan city, but it was no use. The walls were too high and the gates were too strong. The Trojans fought them off every time.

6 Odysseus paused for a moment. “We must get into the city,” he thought. “But how can we do it?”

8 Then, clever Odysseus had an idea. “Build me a great wooden horse,” he ordered. “And make it big enough for me and my men to fit inside.”

11 No one really knew what Odysseus was up to, but for many days and nights the Greeks worked hard to build a huge wooden horse. When it was ready, Odysseus led his men inside. “Now we will trick the Trojans,” he said.

15 The Greek armies burnt their camps and pretended to sail back to Sparta, leaving only the wooden horse behind on the beach. When the Trojans saw the Greeks sailing away they raced down onto the beach.

19 They could hardly believe their eyes.

20 “We’ve won!” they cheered. “The Greeks have gone! And look,” they cried, admiring the great wooden horse, “the Greeks have left us a gift.”

23 Together, the Trojans pushed the horse up the beach and towards the gates of Troy.

25 Inside, Odysseus and his men were keeping very quiet. “Don’t make a sound,” hushed Odysseus. He knew that if the Trojans heard them, his plan would fail.
1 Which word in the opening sentence tells you that Odysseus was in charge of the Greek army?

2 Why was the Greek army not able to win the fight against the Trojans?

3 “Build me a great wooden horse.”
Which word is “great” closest in meaning to? Tick one.

famous □ huge □ important □ wonderful □

4 Look at the paragraph beginning “No one really knew …”.
Find and copy one word that tells you that Odysseus has a plan that does not involve climbing the walls of Troy.

5 Why do you think the Greek armies burnt their camps and pretended to sail away?

6 The Trojans were happy when they saw the Greeks sailing away.
Find and copy one piece of evidence for this statement.

7 Put one tick in each row of the table to show whether each statement is true or false.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>True</th>
<th>False</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The city of Troy had high walls and strong gates.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Greeks built the wooden horse in one night.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Greeks left the wooden horse inside the city.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Trojans admired the horse.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8 Number these events to show what Odysseus planned.

Greek soldiers hide inside the wooden horse.  
Greek soldiers build a wooden horse.  
The Trojans push the wooden horse into the city.  
The Greek army pretends to sail away.

9 What do you think Odysseus plans to do when the Trojans have taken the horse into the city?