

Excerpt where the student places the event in context:

The Trojan war and the tale of Troy was set in the bronze age (3300 - 1200 BC). The supposed site of Troy was in the Northwest of modern Turkey. In the Bronze age often the main reason for the war declaration was because of land, wealth and/or resources. In the case of Troy, the "Trojan War" was declared because Troy was very wealthy, and has a lot of bronze and copper which would be very valuable assets to the Greeks - as seen through the **discovery of copper ingots as part of the Uluburun shipwreck (left) (1).**



Hittite tablets (right) provide evidence of the location of a significant war between the Trojans and Greeks (1) around 1295 - 1272 BC - which aligns to the mythological context of the war. Therefore, this was the conclusive reason in the historical context for the Trojan war. There is no real proof that the Trojan War as described in mythological and literary sources happened but there is source evidence that suggests that aspects could be true.

The mythological reasoning for the cause of the war was provoked by Paris being selected by Zeus to judge the first recorded beauty contest with Hera, Aphrodite, and Athene as the contestants. Paris selected Aphrodite who awarded him the most beautiful, Helen, as his prize. Unfortunately, Helen was married to King Menelaus of Sparta. This aggravated Menelaus who asked Agamemnon to declare war on the Trojans.

Excerpt where student explains why the event was important

The story of the Trojan war is one of the most amazing myths there is. The war to this day is one of the most well-known myths ever. This is because it was retold by two amazing writers, Homer and Virgil, who told the tale through epic poetry. This helped the audience to **understand the cultural expectations of the Greeks, such as the importance of burial rites or arete (2).** Achilles allows Priam to take the body of Hector back to have full burial rites in the Iliad. Even though Achilles' rage led to Hector's death, he respects religious practices enough to ignore battlelines. **These two writers have inspired many other writers and artists. The Trojan War was a popular theme in Classical, Renaissance, Romantic and Modernist periods - in works of art such as The Judgement of Paris by Rubens and James Joyce's Ulysses (2).**