

“An Ancient Gesture” by Edna St. Vincent Millay  
“Siren Song” by Margaret Atwood  
“Prologue” and “Epilogue” from *The Odyssey* by Derek Walcott  
“Ithaca” by Constantine Cavafy

## Career Connection: Travel and Tourism

In the days of Odysseus, making a journey to an unfamiliar land was a difficult and frightening experience. Fortunately, in today’s world of airplanes and detailed maps, travel has become accessible and less challenging for more people. In fact, the idea of exploring new lands has become so popular that an entire industry has been built around travel. If you enjoy studying geography, foreign languages, history, mathematics, and business, then you might consider a career in the travel industry.

One important job is that of a travel agent. A travel agent helps people to plan trips by making hotel and transportation arrangements, booking tours and conferences, and advising clients about important travel documents such as visas and passports. Travel agents also advise clients about weather conditions and special tourist attractions. Agents, who must have strong communication skills, gather their information by making phone calls and by using computers to research travel information.

**DIRECTIONS:** Imagine that you are working as a modern-day travel agent. A client has just read Homer’s *Odyssey* and wants to take a tour of Odysseus’ beloved homeland, Ithaca. Help your client plan the trip. To do your research, locate at a bookstore or local library a recent travel guide to Greece that gives information about Ithaca. Then answer the following questions.

1. When is the best time of year to travel to Ithaca? Where can your client stay when he or she is in Ithaca?
2. What is the cost of airfare to Ithaca? Is the flight direct? If not, where must the person travel first? How does he or she get to Ithaca from there?
3. What monetary system is used in Greece? What is the current exchange rate?
4. Describe some of the more interesting attractions in Ithaca.
5. Describe some interesting facts about people and industry in Ithaca.

6. For your client, contrast modern-day Ithaca with the Ithaca described by Odysseus.