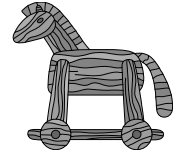


Myths and Legends

A **myth** is a traditional story that explains the beliefs of a people about the natural and human world. The main characters in myths are usually gods or supernatural heroes. The stories are set in the distant past. The people who told these stories believed that they were true.



A **legend** is a traditional story about the past. The main characters are usually kings or heroes. Some examples of well-known legends include the tales of Odysseus from Ancient Greece, Beowulf from the Norse lands and King Arthur from Old England. Like myths, legends were thought to be true.

Mythology is a body of myths and legends from a particular region and culture. Some examples are Greek Mythology, Roman Mythology, Norse Mythology, Celtic Mythology and Chinese Mythology.

Many cultures have **creation myths**, which explain how the world came to be. These stories are interesting to read and compare.



Useful websites:

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/myths.htm>

An introduction to different myths and cultures around the world

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/mythmachine.htm>

A website where students can create their own myths

http://mythicjourneys.org/bigmyth/2_eng_myths.htm

An interactive website with audio, visuals, texts and supporting materials, featuring 25 myths from various regions and cultures

<http://myths.e2bn.org/mythsandlegends/>

A large collection of myths and legends from Britain and other parts of the world

Here is another useful resource for exploring myths:

'Two Greek Myths' in *Teen Time Remix: Using Authentic Materials for Developing Secondary Students' Listening Skills*, English Language Education Section, CDI, EDB, HKSAR, 2008.