

Myths and Legends: Tales of Old

Learning objective: To identify the key features of myths and legends and apply them to creative storytelling.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of traditional storytelling to answer in full sentences.

In Year 5, we explore how myths and legends were once used to explain the world around us. Myths often feature gods or supernatural beings and explain how the world began, while legends are stories based on historical events that have been exaggerated over time. Ellie the elephant is currently reading about a brave warrior from an ancient forest who had to retrieve a golden acorn to save the trees.

Word bank: heroic · supernatural · origin · legendary · quest · mythology · fantastical · tradition

1. Explain the difference between a myth and a legend. Use your own words to describe what each type of story usually focuses on. (2 marks)

2. Ellie the elephant is reading a story about a warrior on a quest. List two common features often found in a hero's journey within a legend. (2 marks)

3. Why might ancient civilisations create myths to explain natural phenomena, such as thunderstorms or the changing of the seasons? (2 marks)

4. If you were writing a myth about the origin of a mountain, what supernatural element would you include and why? (3 marks)

5. Look at the word bank. Choose two words and write a sentence for each that relates to a story about a legendary sea creature. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring a heroic character from your own original legend. Include one fantastical creature or magical object that helps them on their quest.



Extension challenge: Research a traditional myth from a culture of your choice. Write a short paragraph summarising the story and identify whether it is an 'origin myth' or a 'heroic legend'.