Exploring Myths and Legends with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand the features of myths and legends and apply them to create original story ideas.

Ellie the Elephant has been reading about ancient heroes and magical creatures! Use your knowledge of myths and legends to answer the questions below. Think about how these stories often explain how things were made or tell tales of brave adventurers.

Ellie the Elephant loves history! She knows that a myth is a traditional story that explains how something in nature began, often featuring gods or spirits. A legend is a story from the past that is believed to be based on a real person or event, but it has been exaggerated over time to make the hero seem even more amazing. Both types of stories involve a journey or a challenge that tests the character's strength and kindness.

Word bank: Hero · Legend · Myth · Quest · Supernatural · Origin · Courage · Creature

1. What is the main difference between a myth and a legend? Use the information Ellie shared to explain your answer. (2 marks)

2. Myths often explain how something in nature began. Can you think of one thing in nature you could write a myth about? (For example: why the sea is salty, or why the moon changes shape). (1 mark)

3. Legends often feature a hero on a 'quest'. What three qualities do you think a hero in a legend should have and why? (3 marks)

4. Why do you think people told these stories long ago, before books and the internet were invented? (2 marks)

5. If you were writing a legend, would you choose to write about a magical creature or a brave human? Explain your choice. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a legendary hero or a mythical creature that you have invented. Give them a special tool or power that helps them on their journey.

Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-5 sentences) about a quest your hero must go on. What is the one thing they need to find to complete their journey?