

## Legends of the Whispering Woods

*Learning objective: To identify the features of a legend and understand the role of heroic characters.*

Read the story below carefully. Think about how the characters behave and what makes this story a legend. Then, answer the questions that follow.

Long ago, in the heart of the Whispering Woods, there lived a giant stone turtle named Old Mossback. Legend says that Old Mossback carried the entire forest upon his shell. One winter, the streams froze and the animals had no water. Leo the lion, the bravest leader in the woods, decided to seek help. He travelled for seven days until he found the Great Waterfall. Leo knew he could not carry the water back alone. He called out to the mountain winds, and because Leo had always been kind to the forest, the winds helped him guide a sparkling stream back to Old Mossback. From that day on, the woods were never thirsty again, and the animals celebrated Leo's bravery with songs that are still sung today.

*Word bank: courage · legend · mythical · heroic · ancient · mysterious*

**1. Who is the main character in this legend, and what is his special role in the forest? (2 marks)**

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**2. Why was the forest in trouble during the winter? (1 mark)**

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**3. Find and copy one word from the text that describes how Leo travelled to the Great Waterfall. (1 mark)**

**4. Legends often explain how something in nature came to be. What does this legend explain? (2 marks)**

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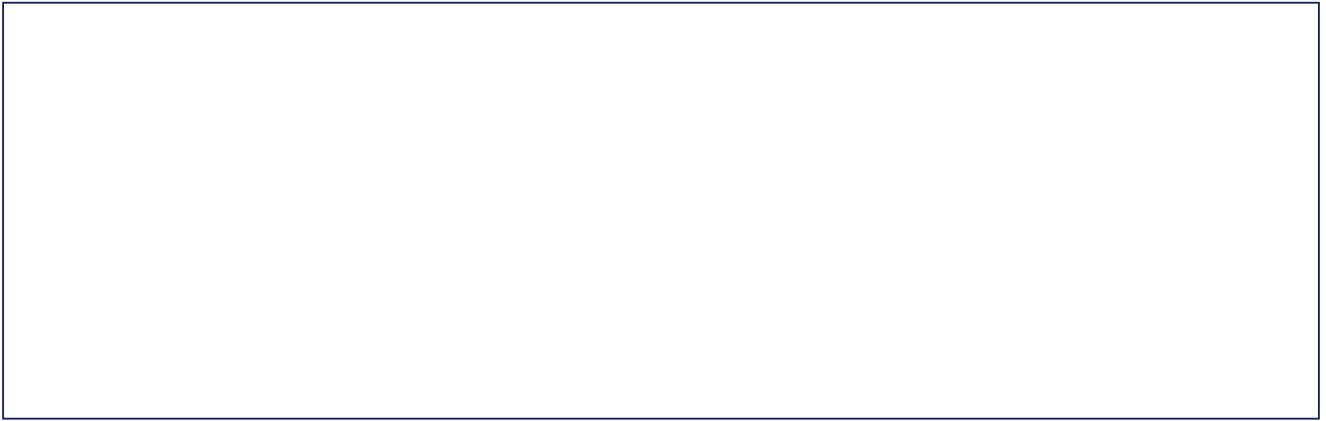
**5. Do you think Leo is a hero? Explain your answer using evidence from the story. (2 marks)**

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**Draw:** Draw a picture of Old Mossback the turtle with the forest growing on his shell, and Leo the lion standing nearby.



*Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in the Whispering Woods. Write a three-sentence news report for the animal newspaper about how Leo saved the day.*