

Year 6 English: Unravelling Myths and Legends

Learning objective: To understand the characteristics of myths and legends and identify their common features.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of traditional storytelling. Read the term or question on the front, think of the answer, then check the back to see if you are correct!

What is a Myth?

A traditional story, often concerning the early history of a people or explaining a natural or social phenomenon, typically involving supernatural beings or events.

What is a Legend?

A traditional story sometimes popularly regarded as historical but unauthenticated, often based on a real person or event from the past.

What does 'Oral Tradition' mean?

Information, beliefs, or customs passed down by word of mouth from one generation to the next before being written down.

What is an 'Archetype' in storytelling?

A typical character, action, or situation that represents universal patterns of human nature, such as the 'wise mentor' or the 'reluctant hero'.

What is usually the main goal of a character in a legend?

A quest, which is a long or arduous search for something valuable, a magical object, or to complete a difficult challenge.

What is a 'Deity'?

A god or goddess, often a central figure in ancient myths who possesses supernatural powers or controls elements of nature.

True or False: Myths were originally created to explain how the world works.

True. Many ancient myths were used to explain natural events like the changing seasons, thunder, or the tides.

What does 'Supernatural' mean?

Attributed to some force beyond scientific understanding or the laws of nature, often involving magic, monsters, or gods.

How do legends differ from myths?

Legends are usually based on real people or historical events that have been exaggerated over time, whereas myths are usually symbolic stories about gods and the creation of the world.

What is a 'Protagonist'?

The leading character or one of the major characters in a myth or legend, often facing a significant conflict or obstacle.

Why do myths and legends often have moral lessons?

They were used to teach societal values, warn against negative behaviours, and show the importance of traits like courage, honesty, and kindness.

What is 'Folklore'?

The traditional beliefs, customs, and stories of a community, passed through the generations by people in the area.