Unit 1 - What is a Myth?

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **Ancient Mythology**
Time Period: **September**
Length: **2 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Transfer

What is a Myth?

Enduring Understandings

Legends are traditional stories based on historical figures and usually exaggerate

or super naturalize heroic deeds

Myths are ancient stories whose authors are unknown that attempt to explain a belief, custom, or force of nature by telling of gods and goddesses and their interventions in the lives of mortals.

Understanding the legends and myths of a particular society helps one understand and relate to that society's culture and history

Stories that are passed on through the oral tradition illustrate culture while also helping to shape culture.

Essential Questions

What are legends and myths?

In what ways are stories that come from oral tradition different from written stories with a specific author?

How do the traits of a legendary hero exemplify the values of the culture from which the legend originated?

In what ways do myths illustrate the belief systems and customs of the cultures that create them?

Content

Vocabulary

Myth

Legend

Legendary hero

Mythological gods and goddesses

Oral tradition

Folklore and Folktales

Cultural values and beliefs

Fables

Learning Objectives

Differentiate between the style, structure, and purpose of myths and legends.

Compare legends and myths from diverse cultures.

Determine the purpose of a particular legend or myth and identify the cultural values or beliefs it is intended to illustrate.

Evaluate a legendary hero’s qualities and character traits.

Analyze the beliefs and values of different cultures based on inferences

from myths and legends

Analyze the difference between myths and fables

Resources

Standards

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.6	Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.9	Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.10	By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6–8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.1	Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.7	Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.8	Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.9	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.