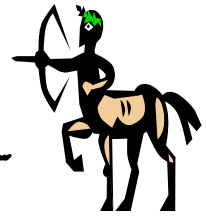


MYTHOLOGY PROJECT



Everyone knows about Hercules. A lot of people know about his father, Zeus, and many of the Greek Gods. Some of you may know about Thor and Asgard. But what about Thor's father Woden, who gave up his eye for the power of prophecy? Or of Amaterasu, the Japanese Shinto sun goddess? There are far, far more mythological stories than what you see in cartoons, as many stories as stars in the sky.

You and your classmates are going to take a glimpse into seven (Japanese, Chinese, Celtic, African, Native American, Polynesian, Eskimo/Inuit) cultures and discover the broad world of mythology.

Task

Once you are assigned a mythological culture go through the resources and investigate. Read through the information and discover who are the primary gods and heroes. Read some of the myths associated with your culture. How was the world created? How will it be destroyed? Are there any important places or objects in the mythological culture? These are all questions you will address in this project.

PRESENTATIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS DUE: TUESDAY ,NOVEMBER 30.

The three components of this project:

1) WRITTEN: Describe examples of the four types of mythological stories (cosmic, god, hero, object/place), List the major gods and goddesses, heroes, etc. Tell the creation or apocalypse story. Make sure you are very specific. The report should ultimately be several pages long and must be word-processed. Each person will be responsible for a section to write about.

The four types of mythological categories:

A) Cosmic Myths include:

- The Creation
- The Flood
- The Afterlife
- The Apocalypse/End of the World

B) Myths of the Gods include:

- Pantheons
- Archetypes (Supreme Being, Great Mother, Dying God, Trickster)

C) Hero Myths include:

- Conception, Birth and Childhood
- The Heroic Adventure/Journey

D) Place and Object Myths include:

- The Mountain, The City, The Temple, The Stone, The Tree, The Grove, The Garden, The Cave, The Labyrinth, etc.

2) VISUAL: Create a series of visual aids. Suggestions include a "family tree" for the gods, pictures of the characters, examples of the geography or architecture, a representation of a mythological story, or a PowerPoint presentation. They do not have to be drawings on poster board - they can be 3-dimensional.

All members must participate in this section!

3) ORAL: Perform a mythological story (creation) for the class. Simply turn a story into a play for us. The performance must be memorized. Costumes are required! Be creative. All members must participate in this section! You can have one person as some sort of narrator with everyone else acting out, or everyone can be part of the play. You will have to explain to the class the context of the story before you present.

Each person in the group will have a specific role:

1) KING/QUEEN OF THE GODS. This person will be the group leader, keeping everyone on task and keeping things moving along. If someone in the group isn't doing his or her job, the King needs to let the teacher know!

2) THE MESSENGER GOD. This person will keep track of the written research. This doesn't mean he or she does all of the written work! It simply means he is responsible for bringing the written portion of the project to class every day and making sure every person has a role with the written portion. If someone in the group isn't pulling his or her weight with the written portion, it is the Messenger's job to report this to the teacher.

3) THE SCULPTOR. This person deals with the visual portion of the project. He or she should keep track of the ideas and materials for that project and make sure that every person has a role. Again, this doesn't mean that he or she is responsible for doing all the work for the visual project. The Sculptor should report team members who aren't working on the visual aides to the teacher.

4) THE MUSE. This person will handle the oral presentation. This could mean getting copies of the script to everyone, keeping track of costumes and props, and making sure everyone has his or her part memorized. Again, the group will create the presentation, but the Muse will simply keep track of it. The Muse must also report team members not adequately working on the presentation to the teacher.

Process and Resources

Every group should start with the [Encyclopedia Mythica](#) page to get a basic idea of your myth. This is the best place to find information on heroes, gods, goddesses, specific places, or specific objects.

You will also find an extensive image library in the [Encyclopedia](#) to help you in your visual aides. As you discover more names and events, check back and look them up in the [Encyclopedia](#)!

Once you have an idea about several names and places, go to specific websites that contain more information on your myth. For example: <http://www.livingmyths.com/index.htm>

http://www.windows.ucar.edu/tour/link=/mythology/worldmap_new.html

<http://www.purgingtalon.com/nlm/worldmyth/>

<http://www.pantheon.org/areas/mythology/asia/japanese/articles.html>

<http://www.godchecker.com/pantheon/celtic-mythology.php>

<http://www.timelessmyths.com/celtic/index.html>

<http://www.godchecker.com/pantheon/chinese-mythology.php>

<http://www.godchecker.com/pantheon/african-mythology.php>

http://www.godchecker.com/pantheon/native_american-mythology.php

<http://www.godchecker.com/pantheon/chinese-mythology.php>

<http://www.mythencyclopedia.com/Pa-Pr/Polynesian-Mythology.html>

<http://www.sacred-texts.com/pac/grey/index.htm>

<http://www.native-languages.org/inuit-legends.htm>

<http://www.lowchensaustralia.com/names/inuit-mythology.htm>

A good source to search for texts/stories in any of the world's mythologies:

<http://www.sacred-texts.com/>

Evaluation

	Outstanding (41-50)	Competent (31-40)	Developing (21-30)	Not Yet Successful (0-20)
Written Report	Contains all aspects. Full participation Grammatically correct.	Missing an aspect. Not full participation, grammar issues.	Missing two aspects. Not full participation, substantial errors.	Missing 3-4 aspects. Unacceptable organization.
Visual Aides	Highly creative visual aids help in explaining the mythology. Full group participation	Somewhat creative visual aids. Not full participation	Lack of creativity in visual aids.	No or unacceptable visual aides
Oral Presentation	All members participate, presentation memorized, costuming and presentation Shows understanding.	Moderate participation, memorization issues, Costume issues shows some understanding	Poor participation Lack of understanding Lack of costumes	No participation

Reflection and Conclusion

Some questions to ask yourself:

Have you noticed similarities between the different cultures?

Do many of the stories follow specific patterns?

Do you have a better understanding of the cultures?

Some questions to ask the class as a whole:

Which group had the best and most creative oral presentation?

Which group had the best costumes?

Which group had the most creative visual aides?

Did each person in each group follow his or her role?