



Myths, Legends, Fables and Folk Tales

The Stories of Humankind

Myths, Legends, Fables, and Folk Tales

Throughout history, man has tried to explain how he got here, events that occur in nature, and to pass on local wisdom to his descendants.



Myths, Legends, Fables, and Folk Tales

As a result, each culture has created its own literature of explanation in the form of myths, legends, fables and folk tales.



What is the difference between a myth, a legend, fable and a folk tale?

- A myth is usually a sacred story from the past.
- It usually involves gods, goddesses, and/or other supernatural creatures.
- They usually have the power to control humans.



What are some examples of myths?

Poseidon, god of the oceans

Medusa

Cyclops

The Centaurs



What is a folk tale?



- It's a fictional story from the past.
- It's passed down by word of mouth and doesn't usually have a single author.
- Besides being entertaining, it may teach a lesson or explain something in nature.
- It involves people (common or royal) or animals that speak, think or act like people.

What are some folk tales?

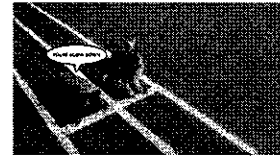
Fairy Tales

Why "Pourquoi"
Tales

Trickster Tales



What is a fable?



- It's a brief story or poem that teaches a lesson or a moral, which is usually stated at the end of the fable.
- It's characters are usually animals.

What are some examples of fables?

- The Tortoise and the Hare
- The Boy Who Cried Wolf
- The Goose that Laid the Golden Eggs
- The Dove and the Ant



What is a legend?



- It's a story usually based on history.
- It is often an exaggeration of facts.
- It's usually associated with a specific location.

What are some examples of legends?

Davy Crockett

King Arthur

Blackbeard



In days gone by, these stories were ways of getting information to people who couldn't read. Stories were passed down by word of mouth.

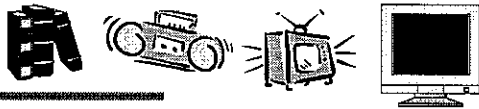
Of course, there were no phones!

But someone's job would be to tell stories, and the story teller was a very important person in the community.

Sometimes THE most important!



Myths, legends, fables and folk tales helped humans to make sense of their own history, to explain human behavior, and to explain how the natural world works.



Today we have books, tv, radio, and computers to help us.

But we still enjoy the stories of our ancestors.

They give us a common history.

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