



# MYTHS and LEGENDS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Knowledge organiser

Greek Gods	
<b>Zeus</b>	Vengeful King of the Gods. Father to Hercules, Perseus, Athena
<b>Poseidon</b>	God of the seas. Zeus' brother. Cursed King Minos with The Minotaur
<b>Hera</b>	Jealous wife of Zeus. Tricked Hercules into killing his children
<b>Hephaestus</b>	Blacksmith God. Son of Zeus. Crafted Pandora on Zeus's command.
<b>Hades</b>	God of the Underworld. Zeus' brother. Owner of the hell-hound Cerberus.
<b>Athena</b>	Zeus' daughter. Cursed Medusa. Friend of Prometheus. Champion of Perseus.
Greek Titans	
<b>Atlas</b>	Fought in the war against the gods. Cursed to hold up the heavens for eternity.
<b>Prometheus</b>	Stole fire from mount Olympus. Chained to a rock, where eagles ate his liver as punishment
<b>Epimetheus</b>	Brother of Prometheus. Owner of 'Pandora's box'. Married Pandora.
Greek Heroes	
<b>Perseus</b>	Son of Zeus and Danae. Slayed the Medusa, assisted by Athena.
<b>Theseus</b>	Son of King Aegeus of Athens. Slew The Minotaur. Betrayed Ariadne.
<b>Hercules</b>	Cursed by Hera. Gained immortal glory after completing 12 labours.
Greek Kings	
<b>Minos</b>	Cruel and powerful King of Crete. Took sacrifices from Athens to feed the Minotaur.
<b>Aegeus</b>	King of Athens. Through himself into the 'Aegean' sea after seeing the black sail.
<b>Eurystheus</b>	Mean and spiteful king of Argolis. Sent Hercules on his labours.
<b>Polydectes</b>	Tyrannical king of Seriphos. Married and mistreated Danae. Turned to stone by Perseus.
Important Mortals	
<b>Pandora</b>	Beautiful, married to Epimetheus. Opened 'Pandora's box'.
<b>Daedalus</b>	Master architect, inventor and craftsmen. Built the Labyrinth.
<b>Icarus</b>	Son of Daedalus. Flew too close to the sun.
<b>Ariadne</b>	Son of Minos. Fell in love with Theseus and used 'Ariadne's thread' to assist him.
<b>Sisyphus</b>	King punished by the Gods to roll a boulder uphill forever.

Myths: were created by early civilisations to make sense of things happening in the natural world around them. These traditional stories had no historical basis, and often contained elements of the supernatural or the divine.



Legend: a very old story or set of stories from ancient times. These stories are not always true, but often have some historical grounding and focus on a famous person or event.

Norse	South American (Venezuelan)
The body of stories that we today call "Norse" formed one of the centerpieces of the pagan Norse religion. These are the tales that Viking poets recited in dimly lit halls, and which fathers and mothers told to their children around roaring hearthfires. They are epic myths of war, magic, love, betrayal, triumph, and ruin.	Folklore and oral story telling is a huge part of South American culture. South American myths and legends, much like the Greek, tell tales of hybrid monsters and giants. The supernatural is key to the traditional tales of Venezuela, where the spirit world was used to teach important moral messages.

### Myths and legends from around the globe

Body of stories concerning the gods, heroes, and rituals of the ancient Greeks. Philosophers such as Plato in the 5th-4th century BCE agreed that many of the myths were fictional. In general, however, the Greeks viewed myths and legends as true accounts. Greek mythology has had extensive influence on the arts and literature of Western civilization.



Most Indian myths and legends have been derived from two epic poems: Mahabharata and Ramayana, as well as from the ancient Hindu texts, Puranas. The stories were told to excite, enthrall, teach and frighten to frighten their listeners- with tales of unbreakable curses and mystical creatures.

### Key Vocab T2

Implicit
Explicit
Discord
Equilibrium
Chronology
Modernisation
Moral
Betrayal
Courageous
Deceptive
Devotion
Envious
Labyrinth
Malicious
Oppressive
Tyrannical
Valiant
Vengeful
Wrath
Zealous
Chronicle

**Beowulf** is an Old English story by an anonymous Anglo-Saxon poet. It is referred to as an EPIC poem. The poem tells a story of a strong and brave warrior (Beowulf) who defeats monsters and goes on to become King. Beowulf's first major battle was against Grendel, a monster that had been terrorising the Scyldings.

### Key Themes and Ideas



### Power, Gods, trust v. betrayal, deception



### Mortality, murder, prophecies and curses



**Battles and quests, bravery and courage, coming of age, the supernatural, reason v. power, fate, power of man, worship, danger of curiosity, excessive pride**

### Subject Terms T3

Tragedy
Hamartia
Hubris
Archetype
Hero
Villain
Connotation
Denotation
Allegory
Juxtaposition
Oxymoron
Setting
Simile
Metaphor
Imagery
Symbol



# MYTHS and LEGENDS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Recall, Quizzing and Application

### Greek Gods

List 5 adjectives to describe Zeus and explain why you have chosen them

Challenge: link Zeus' characteristics to other Greek Gods

Write a short story in which Zeus' siblings turn against him.

Challenge: can you include Hera, Zeus' jealous wife in your plot?

Draw a diagram showing how each of the Greek Gods connect.

Challenge: add additional branches connecting the Titans, Morals, Heroes and Kings

### Greek Titans

Summarise the myth of Prometheus

Challenge: write a paragraph arguing whether or not you believe Prometheus was right or wrong to give the Mortals fire.

### Greek Heroes

Re-write the ending of Theseus' story.

Challenge: write a few sentences explaining why you have chosen to end the story in this way.

### Greek Kings

Write a paragraph describing King Minos, ensuring you use metaphor.

Challenge: can you use juxtaposition when describing him?

### Important Mortals

Summarise the plot points in Pandora's Box.

Challenge: decide which moments are the least and most important and explain why.



Look up the etymology of, and define the word, myth.  
now use the word in four different sentences



In your own words, explain the difference between a myth and a legend.  
Challenge: find someone at home, or school, who doesn't know the difference and teach them.

List five facts about Norse myths and legends

Beowulf is a Norse myth. Do you think Beowulf is a hero or a villain. Write a paragraph explaining your answer.

Do you think any of the characters in Kopecho and the Two Suns felt betrayed? Explain your answer.

Do you think any of the characters in Kopecho and the Two Suns were courageous? Explain your answer.



### Myths and legends from around the globe

Create a small poster than explains what the following key terms mean:

Tragedy  
Hubris  
Hamartia  
Hero  
Villain  
Archetype.

Your poster must include a mixture of words and images.

Answer all in full sentences :  
What were traditional Indian myths and legends inspired by?  
What is a curse?  
What is an epic poem?  
What does the term supernatural mean?

**Beowulf** : create a timeline of events for the story of Beowulf.

**Beowulf**: Explain in your own words what the moral message of the story is.



### Key Themes and Ideas



Write the opening to a short story inspired by the two images above. You must use imagery to create a vivid setting

Challenge: Include a character that has a clear hamartia

List the key themes in Beowulf and explain at what points in the story these themes can be found.  
Challenge: can you identify any similar themes in the other myths and legends we have studied?

### Subject Terms T3

Explain the difference between the words connotation and denotation.

List the connotations and denotations for the following words: gun, rose, sun, dove, tree, god

### Tier 2 vocab challenges

What is the difference between explicit and implicit?  
Use both words in a sentence.

What does the word discord mean?

What does the prefix dis mean?

List 8 words that also begin with the prefix dis-

Define the words deceptive and devotion and use both these words in separate sentences.

Where did the prefix de- originate? Can you list 8 other words beginning with the prefix de-

Write a paragraph describing a character who is an oppressive tyrant.

Challenge: can you think of any real leaders in today's society, or throughout history, that could be described as tyrants? Explain your answer.

Write a paragraph describing a character who is courageous and valiant.

Challenge: don't use either of those words- show that your character is both those things without telling.

