

Curriculum Unit Title

21st Century Mythmaking: Reading and Writing Culturally Responsive Mythology

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Through a Scientific Lens in the ELL Classroom

KEY LEARNING, ENDURING UNDERSTANDING, ETC.

Mythology is a pragmatic genre for transmitting traditional knowledge, spiritual beliefs, and rituals to successive generations within a culture. Indigenous cultures often incorporate traditional knowledge about the natural world in myths. This traditional knowledge remains essential to our understanding of culture and ecology today. Archetypes are symbols that appear in the literature of cultures across the globe. Archetypes often share similarities across cultures, but are also represented by unique, culturally-specific differences.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION(S) for the UNIT

How do cultures pass on spiritual beliefs, knowledge, and traditions?
How have cultures learned to adapt and survive in their environments?
Why do similar patterns and stories appear in cultures around the globe?

CONCEPT A

Mythology is a genre that passes on cultural knowledge.

CONCEPT B

Traditional knowledge helps us understand culture and ecology today.

CONCEPT C

Archetypes are universal culture symbols.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS A

How do cultures pass on spiritual beliefs, knowledge, and traditions?

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS B

How have cultures learned to adapt and survive in their environments?

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS C

Why do similar patterns and stories appear in cultures around the globe?

VOCABULARY A

Mythology Culture
Philosophy Symbol

VOCABULARY A

Ethnobotany
Indigenous
Native

VOCABULARY A

Archetype Journey
Hero Quest

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/MATERIAL/TEXT/FILM/RESOURCES

- Instructor should select a variety of multicultural myths that demonstrate traditional knowledge and archetypes. Examples include the following: The Legend of the Three Sisters from the Haudenosaunee, the Ese'Eja creation myth, and the Anishinaabe creation myth. A collection of multicultural myths can also be found at <https://www.pbs.org/mythsandheroes/myths.html>
- Instructors should also collect information about native plant species relevant to their teaching contexts. Teachers in Delaware can use the following resource for more information about native plants (and their traditional uses) in Delaware: <http://delawaretribe.org/wp-content/uploads/DEL-ETHNOBOTANY-Hill.pdf>
- "The Cyclops" excerpt from *The Odyssey* by Homer
- "What Makes a Hero?" TEDEd by Matthew Winkler https://www.ted.com/talks/matthew_winkler_what_makes_a_hero?language=en
- TEDEd "Myths from Around the World" Video Collection <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJicmE8fK0EjW2AVwcSc4NvGyJJaw7bzh>