

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will be able to analyze and compare myths and legends from different cultures, identify common themes and motifs, and gain a deeper appreciation for the cultural significance of these stories.

Materials and Prep

- Internet access
- Pen and paper
- Optional: Books or resources on myths and legends

Activities

- **Research and Choose:** Have the student research myths and legends from different cultures. They can choose at least three different cultures and find a myth or legend from each. Encourage them to explore lesser-known stories or focus on specific themes they find interesting.
- **Compare and Contrast:** Ask the student to analyze the myths and legends they have chosen. Have them identify common themes, motifs, and archetypes across different cultures. They can create a Venn diagram or a chart to visually represent their findings.
- **Storytelling Time:** Have the student pick their favorite myth or legend and retell it in their own words. They can write a short story, create a comic strip, or even act it out. Encourage them to add their own creative twists while staying true to the essence of the original story.
- **Reflect and Discuss:** Engage in a discussion with the student about the cultural significance of myths and legends. Talk about how these stories reflect the values, beliefs, and traditions of different societies. Encourage critical thinking and ask the student to share their personal interpretations and connections to the stories.

Talking Points

- Myths and legends are ancient stories passed down through generations. They often explain natural phenomena, teach moral lessons, or showcase heroic deeds.
- Myths are traditional stories that usually involve gods, goddesses, and supernatural beings. They often explain the creation of the world, the origins of humanity, and the nature of the gods.
- Legends are stories based on real or historical events and often feature heroic individuals or extraordinary characters. They may include elements of the supernatural or magical.
- Common themes in myths and legends include hero's journey, creation, love and sacrifice, good versus evil, and the quest for immortality.

- Archetypes are recurring symbols, characters, or motifs found in myths and legends. Examples include the hero, the trickster, the mentor, and the wise old man/woman.
- Myths and legends vary across cultures, but they often share similar motifs and themes. Exploring different stories can help us understand the universal aspects of human experience.
- By retelling myths and legends, we keep these ancient stories alive and make them relevant to our own lives. It allows us to connect with the past and appreciate the cultural diversity of our world.