

Myths in different countries



Name:

Date:

Myth 1: The Rainbow Serpent

Gather 'round, everyone, and listen closely. This is a story the Aboriginal people of Australia have told for many, many years. Long ago, when the world was new, the land was dry and empty. There were no rivers, no lakes, and no seas. It was a lonely place. But deep in the earth lived a magical creature. It was long and shiny, with scales that glimmered in every color. This was the Rainbow Serpent.

One day, the Rainbow Serpent woke up from a deep sleep. It began to move across the land, twisting and turning. As it moved, it dug deep channels in the ground. Water flowed into these channels, creating rivers and lakes. The land was no longer dry; it was full of life. Plants grew, and animals came to drink from the water. The Rainbow Serpent had brought life to the land.

The Rainbow Serpent is a symbol of creation and life. It reminds us to care for the earth and all living things. When you see a rainbow in the sky, remember the Rainbow Serpent and the gift of life it gave to the world.

Myth 2: The Bunyip

Now, listen to this tale, one that might make your skin tingle. In the heart of the Australian bush, near the quiet waters, there's a creature many have whispered about: the Bunyip. As the sun sets and the night takes over, you might just hear strange sounds rising from the dark waters.

The Bunyip is said to be a mysterious beast. Some say it has the face of a dog, others say it looks like a big bird. Its cry is unlike anything you've heard before—spooky and loud. People who dare to go near the water at night sometimes feel like something is watching them. They say, "Beware of the Bunyip." It loves the dark and quiet places and is rarely seen.

But don't be too afraid. The Bunyip is mostly a mystery, a tale told to keep the young ones from wandering too far. It's a story that reminds us to respect the land and its secrets, to be careful and wise. So, next time you're near a dark, still water, listen closely. You might just hear the Bunyip watching over its home.

Decide whether these statements are true or false

The Rainbow Serpent lived in the sky.

True False

The Rainbow Serpent created rivers and lakes.

True False

The Bunyip is known to be a friendly creature.

True False

The Rainbow Serpent is a symbol of creation and life.

True False

The Bunyip likes bright and sunny places.

True False

The Rainbow Serpent had scales that glimmered in every color.

True False

The Bunyip has the face of a dog according to some stories.

True False

The story of the Bunyip teaches us to respect the land.

True False



Myths

Myths are traditional stories that have been passed down **through generations**, often with the purpose of explaining natural or social phenomena. They typically involve **supernatural beings or events** and are set in a time that is often considered to be the **distant past**. Myths are an important part of many cultures and are often used to teach **moral or cultural values**.

One of the key literary characteristics of myths is their use of **symbolism**.

Another common characteristic of myths is their use of **archetypes**, or recurring character types that represent universal patterns of human behavior.

Myths are typically told in a **narrative form**, with a clear beginning, middle, and end.

They often include a problem or conflict that must be resolved, and the resolution of this conflict often serves as the climax of the story.

Describe which elements make the Rainbow Serpent story a myth.

The Rainbow Serpent story is a myth because it explains the creation of natural features such as rivers and lakes through the actions of a magical creature, the Rainbow Serpent. It uses supernatural elements and serves as a symbolic tale to impart lessons about caring for the earth and respecting nature.

Explain how the Bunyip story fits the format of a myth.

The Bunyip story fits the format of a myth as it involves a mysterious and mythical creature that inhabits the Australian bush. It uses elements of fear and mystery to explain natural phenomena and caution people, particularly young ones, about the dangers of wandering too far, thus instilling respect for the land.

Name the common thematic elements shared by both myths.

Both myths share thematic elements of creation, respect for nature, and the presence of mythical creatures. They both serve to explain natural phenomena and impart lessons about respecting and caring for the environment.

Describe how the setting contributes to the mythical nature of the stories.

The setting contributes to the mythical nature of the stories by situating them in the natural Australian landscape, which is depicted as ancient and magical. The dry and empty land in the Rainbow Serpent myth and the dark, quiet waters in the Bunyip myth create an atmosphere that supports the supernatural and mysterious elements of the tales.

Write your own myth about how the sun was created.

Long ago, the world was dark. People lived without light and were sad. One day, a brave girl named Mia climbed the tallest mountain to find a way to bring light. At the top, she met a giant eagle with golden feathers. The eagle said, 'I have the power to create the sun, but you must answer my riddle.' The riddle was, 'What is the brightest thing in the world?' Mia thought and answered, 'Hope.' The eagle was impressed and flapped its wings, creating the sun. From that day, the world was bright and full of happiness.