

THE HERO MYTH WEB QUEST

INTRODUCTION

A hero is different for each person. The person next to you may think one person is a hero and you may think someone else is a hero. Cultures have all sorts of heroes. In general, the hero has some quality or trait that is admired by a culture or society. As you read your group's hero myth think about what qualities these cultures admired and respected in people. How does this compare with our culture today?

TASK

The teacher will give each of you a plot diagram and a hero t-chart. Working with your group, read the myth and each of you fill out the worksheets.

RESOURCES

CULTURE	MYTH
BLACKFEET – NATIVE AMERICANS	Chief Mountain
CHINESE	Qu Yuan, the Patriotic Poet
CELTIC	Prince Iain
GREEK	HERCULES
INDIA	Sati and Shiva
BABYLONIAN	Adapa
AFRICAN BUSHMEN	Cagn and the Baboons
FILIPINO	Mansumandig
NORSE	The Father with Two Sons
EGYPT	Read Two Myths: 1) Osiris and 2) Revenge of Horus

If you have trouble with any outdated links, try www.google.com and type in “_____ creation myths” (with the quotation marks) putting the name of your assigned culture in the blank.

PROCESS

For your final web quest, follow the process as before, but begin to think about how you will present your culture's mythology to the class.

First record the names and personalities of the characters in the myth. Then, describe the setting.

Now, list the characteristics of the Hero. These characteristics might be qualities we consider heroic even today or they might be unexpected qualities. What makes this character a hero for this culture? Consider each characteristic and figure out what it represents for the culture. Having muscles could mean that this culture values strength. Planning could mean that this culture respects those who plan their strategies. Or planning could indicate that wisdom or thoughtfulness, which may be valued by this culture.

Next, figure out what this tells the reader about the culture. What does this myth tell you about the environment of this culture? Is it rocky and hilly or is it a land bordered by water or is it a forest or farmland?

What does it tell you about how the culture finds or makes food and shelter?

Can the culture rebuild their village easily or are their cities hard to rebuild after a disaster? How do they get food? Must they fish every day or must they have a way to store grain?

What does the myth tell you about how the culture deals with other people and cultures?

Are they warriors? Are they business people or traders?

What do you learn about the roles of men, women, and children?

Do you think this hero would be a hero in our culture?

Continue until you have completed both the plot diagram and the hero t-chart.

EVALUATION

The evaluation for this project will depend on how successfully you were able to work together as a group and complete the plot diagram and monster t-chart.

Did you have difficulty identifying specific parts of the myth? Which parts were hard and why? Which were easy? Why?

As a group, did you work together well? Give two examples of how you worked well together. Give two examples of how you might work better together next time.

How did this myth represent the culture it was from?

CONCLUSION

This is your last web quest for this unit. In the next unit you will be doing another series of web quests to strengthen your skills before you create your own in unit three. For this unit, though, put these completed sheets into your classroom folder until you work together to present to the class the culture you studied.

