

World Mythology Research Project: Building the World Through Stories

The Situation: We have been studying Greek mythology and the way that it reflects how Grecian culture looked at their relationship with the physical world, with each other, and with their own human nature. Many of the characters, stories, and ideas of Greco-Roman mythology have had a lasting impact on modern Western culture. However, the ancient Greeks weren't the only ancient cultures who created elaborate mythologies, and it's time for us to learn about some of them and the messages they convey.

The Task: You and your group will research the mythology of another ancient culture and present it to your classmates. Each member of your group will choose one of the topics below for your PowerPoint presentation and each member will present his/her research in an essay.

1. The **geography** of that culture Your research should include the following

information:

- a. Where were they located?
- b. What was the climate like?
- c. What did they eat?
- d. What types of wildlife were present?
- e. What types of physical challenges would this culture face?

2. The **creation story** of that culture, Your research should include the following

information:

- a. How was the world created? Why was it created?
- b. From what was it created? Who created it? How did humans end up on it, and why?

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c. How does it influence the way humans in this culture see the world and themselves?

3. The **main mythological characters** for that culture Your research should include the following information:

1. What personality traits does each have?
2. What forces do they control?
3. What do they look like?
4. Do they work together, or are they independent? Do they have a leader?
5. What purpose does each serve/teach

Four other mythological stories from that culture

- a) Who are the protagonists?
- b) Who are the antagonists?
- c) How do humans and Gods interact?
- d) What is the message/universal idea of the story? What does it explain about the world? How does it influence the way his culture looks at the world?
- e) What does each story teach?

Requirements:

- ✓ Research should be summarized in a typed outline (which you will turn in to me before your present presentation).
- ✓ Information on each slide will consist of the bullet or outline format.

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- ✓ The outline must follow MLA formatting (proper heading, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double spacing)
- ✓ The outline must address the bolded areas above
- ✓ The outline must list sources at the end
- ✓ There also should be at least one visual /graphic per slide which supports the information on the slide.
- ✓ Research will be shared orally with the entire class.