



# Creation Mythology Project



## Overview

What is the earth and how did it form? Where does the sun come from, and why does it move across the sky? Why do we have seasons? Where did the first animals and people come from? Why does it rain and thunder? Why is there a night and a day? What is the moon and why does it shine?

Human societies have long pondered and attempted to explain the world around them. Long before modern science found answers to the above questions, each civilization asked and answered them with stories and ideas based on the conceptions of their particular culture. We as a class want to discover answers to the question:

**How is a civilization's mythology reflected in and informed by its culture?**

In order to seek answers to this question you will be working with a team of archeological and literary researchers: your fellow classmates.

## The Task

As a team of researchers it is your job to carry out a study into the creation mythology of a civilization of your choice and to answer the question highlighted above. Once you have gathered the information you need to answer the question you will present the materials to your colleagues in a multifaceted **10-12 minute** presentation. The presentation will consist of:

**A PowerPoint presentation** which includes:

- **Background information** about the civilization from which your myth is drawn. This includes its place in history, geography, type of economy, religions, and other interesting or information relevant to the civilization and myth you are presenting.
- **Information about the culture** of your civilization and *how this information helps to explain the origin and significance of the creation myth you are studying*. This could include information about its art, architecture, music, dance, drama, customs, dress, language, jewelry, etc.
- **An analysis of the creation myths role** in the systems and beliefs of your civilization. In other words, the answer to the question: How is a civilization's mythology reflected in and informed by its culture?

This section of the presentation will be the most heavily weighted as far as your grade is concerned. This part of the presentation should run from **7-8 minutes**.

### A Dramatic Presentation of the creation myth of your culture

For this part of the project your team must reenact the creation myth for your colleagues in class. Use your creativity to make the story come alive as you tell it. Each research team must use a combination of props, costumes, power point slides (as a visual back drop for your presentation), music, etc. in order to enhance the presentation of your myth. The length of the myth should be from **4-5 min.**

You must use a minimum of:

- o 2 Props and/or set pieces that help your audience know where they are.
- o Each performer must have at least one costume piece that is appropriate for the character they represent and to the culture from which the myth derives.
- o Either music and/or PowerPoint images suitably related to the myth you are portraying.

Here is a list of ideas of what you might consider including:

o Masks for non human characters	o An Item that represents your character (a lightning bolt for Zeus for example)
o An image of an important land mark or building from you civilization	o Jewelry or clothing from the culture or that is representative of the culture
o Use puppets to represent characters or certain parts of the story	o Music that fits the mood or your story or music from the culture you are portraying
o Use PowerPoint images to depict certain events(an image of a iceberg to represent a journey to the cold lands of the North wind)	o Use "altered furniture" to represent parts of the story. (a table covered in foliage representing a tree or a hill)

**Script of Creation Myth:** your group will produce a script for the presentation of your myth to be turned in as a part of your project.

#### Division of Labor: Group Member Roles:

In order to make sure that your group works effectively and efficiently toward the completion of the project each member will need to take on a specific role (or roles):

**Project Manager:** This team member is responsible for keeping the group on task and for making sure that each part of the project is included and completed in a timely manner.

**Researchers (entire group):** These team members are in charge of finding the vital information about your group's civilization and coordinating it into the final PowerPoint presentation. The research they conduct includes finding images and pictures, information on the internet, consulting books, articles, journals, etc.

**Dramatists:** These group members are responsible for creating the reenactment of the myth. This includes deciding on a version of the myth to be presented, how to reenact the myth, finding props, music, costume ideas, etc. The dramatists and other members can work together to reenact the myth.

**PowerPoint Designers:** These group members are in charge of creating the layout for the presentation and for making sure that all the information and materials are included.

**Presenters (entire group):** Each person in the group must have an active role in the final presentation of your project. This means that each person is responsible for presenting a portion of the project to your colleagues.

**Notes on use and citing of sources:** As scholarly researchers it is vital that you give credit to the sources from which you have drawn your materials. As part of your presentation you will need to generate a list of these sources using the MLA citation format. We will go over this format in class. This information can also be found in the *Writers Inc.* text books found in our classroom. Make sure your group:

- Uses a variety of **quality** sources both print and electronic.
- Uses a **minimum** of **5** different textual sources.
- Uses and documents a minimum of **3** images that enhance and support the presentation.

**Final Notes:** Have fun with this project. It offers you the chance to work with your fellow students and learn not only about classic myths but also about different perceptions and conceptions of the workings of the world. I am looking forward to bearing witness to your combined creativity and the new ideas you discover.