

Mythology: Fact vs. Fiction

Mythology · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. The study of myths and legends is known as:

- A) Archeology
- B) Anthropology
- C) Mythology**
- D) Philology

2. Many ancient myths often served to explain natural phenomena. For example, the Greek myth of Persephone and Hades explained the changing seasons. This is an example of mythology functioning as:

- A) A historical record
- B) A scientific theory
- C) An origin story**
- D) A political manifesto

3. The ancient Egyptians created myths about gods like Ra, the sun god. This reflects their societal need to understand and personify:

- A) Economic systems
- B) Astronomical cycles**
- C) Social hierarchies
- D) Technological advancements

4. The epic poem 'The Iliad' by Homer, while containing mythological elements, is based on historical events related to the:

- A) Roman Republic
- B) Trojan War**
- C) Persian Empire
- D) Gallic Wars

5. Oral traditions, the primary method of passing down myths for centuries, are a significant part of the study of:

- A) Written literature
- B) Fossil records
- C) Linguistic evolution
- D) Cultural anthropology**

6. The concept of creation myths, found in nearly every culture, primarily addresses questions about:

A) The future of humanity

B) The origins of the universe

C) The development of technology

D) The principles of physics

7. Many flood myths, such as the one in the Epic of Gilgamesh, are believed to be inspired by:

A) Actual widespread floods

B) The invention of agriculture

C) The development of writing

D) The discovery of fire

8. The Norse god Thor, often depicted with a hammer, is associated with:

A) The sea

B) Thunder

C) The harvest

D) The underworld

9. The Greek pantheon, with gods like Zeus and Hera, was a polytheistic system, meaning they believed in:

A) One supreme god

B) No gods

C) Multiple gods

D) Ancestor spirits

10. Heroic myths, like those of Hercules or Odysseus, often explore themes of:

A) Scientific discovery

B) Everyday life

C) Human courage and struggle

D) Economic trade

11. The stories of the Japanese kami are an example of a belief system that often involves:

A) Monotheism

B) Atheism

C) Animism

D) Dualism

12. The development of complex mythologies is often correlated with:

- A) Societies with limited social interaction
- B) Societies with rigid caste systems
- C) The rise of organized religion and social structures**
- D) Societies that rely solely on written records

13. The concept of the 'trickster' figure, found in various mythologies, represents:

- A) A purely benevolent force
- B) A symbol of chaos and change**
- C) A historical military leader
- D) A scientific innovator

14. The ancient Mesopotamian Epic of Gilgamesh is one of the earliest known works of:

- A) Philosophy
- B) Astronomy
- C) Literature**
- D) Mathematics

15. Many cultural myths feature explanations for death and the afterlife, reflecting a universal human concern with:

- A) Technological progress
- B) The afterlife**
- C) Political governance
- D) Economic distribution