

Folklore and Science Facts

Folklore & Legends · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. The 'Kraken' of Scandinavian folklore is scientifically believed to be based on which real-world animal?

- A) Giant Squid**
- B) Blue Whale
- C) Great White Shark
- D) Green Sea Turtle

2. What geological event likely inspired the Greek myth of Atlantis?

- A) Volcanic eruption at Thera**
- B) A massive hurricane
- C) The formation of the Grand Canyon
- D) The melting of the Ice Age glaciers

3. Which real organism is often identified as the source of 'will-o'-the-wisp' lights seen in marshes?

- A) Bioluminescent fungi
- B) Swamp gas (methane)**
- C) Fireflies
- D) Reflective quartz

4. The legend of the 'Unicorn' is widely thought to be based on observations of which real animal?

- A) Narwhal**
- B) Mountain Goat
- C) Rhino
- D) White Horse

5. What is the scientific explanation for the 'dragons' of Komodo, which are real-world reptiles?

- A) Komodo Dragons**
- B) Marine Iguanas
- C) Flying Geckos
- D) Bearded Dragons

6. The legend of 'Cyclops' skulls in ancient Greece likely originated from the discovery of fossils belonging to which creature?

- A) Dwarf Elephant**
- B) Giant Sloth
- C) Woolly Mammoth
- D) Sabre-toothed Cat

7. What is the primary scientific reason for the historical 'St. Elmo's Fire' phenomenon observed by sailors?

- A) Plasma discharge**
- B) Ball lightning
- C) Reflected sunlight
- D) Bioluminescent plankton

8. The 'Jackalope' of American folklore is based on rabbits affected by which real biological condition?

- A) Shope papilloma virus**
- B) Genetic mutation
- C) Severe frostbite
- D) Parasitic infection

9. Which astronomical event was often misinterpreted in ancient folklore as a 'blood moon' or 'dragon eating the sun'?

- A) Lunar eclipse**
- B) Solar flare
- C) Meteor shower
- D) Aurora Borealis

10. The 'Mermaid' legends are most scientifically attributed to sightings of which marine mammal order?

- A) Sirenia (manatees and dugongs)**
- B) Cetacea (whales and dolphins)
- C) Pinnipedia (seals and walruses)
- D) Carnivora (otters)

11. Ancient stories of 'thunderbirds' are believed by some researchers to be inspired by sightings of which large bird?

- A) California Condor**
- B) Golden Eagle
- C) Ostrich
- D) Pelican

12. The folklore surrounding 'zombies' in Haiti has a scientific link to the use of toxins from which animal?

A) Pufferfish

B) Poison Dart Frog

C) King Cobra

D) Blue-ringed Octopus