



Reference Training Guides

Mythology Subject Guide

Mythology is the study of myths, and the myths themselves. Myths are stories told as symbols of fundamental truths within societies that have strong oral traditions. There are as many types of myth as there are situations affecting humankind. Among the most important types are those dealing with cosmological events or with crisis moments in the life cycle of the individual. Others range from those explaining the significance of a particular stage of a culture to those dealing with extraordinary beings. The subjects of myths can also refer to folklore, legends, and fairy tales. When one is searching for information on a myth, they may want the myth itself, information about the characters and settings of a myth, or interpretations and other critical writings on that myth.

Useful keywords/subject headings for searching

Animals, Mythical
Classical Mythology
Egyptian Mythology
Fairy tales
Folklore
God(s)
Goddess(es)
Greek Mythology
Hindu Mythology
Legend
Myth
Mythology
Norse Mythology
Roman Mythology

Call numbers to search under

201, 202 – World mythology
290-299 – Mythology of specific countries or cultures
398, 398.2, 809.9 – Folk tales and stories

Internet links

Classics Unveiled

<http://www.classicsunveiled.com/>

This site consists of four sections with information culled from books on classical Greece and Rome. "MythNET" provides information about Greek gods and heroes and includes genealogical tables. "Rome Unleashed" provides information about Roman history and includes timelines and tables of rulers. "Rome Exposed" includes information about Roman life such as slavery, attire, and cuisine. "Latin Wordstock" features a Latin to English dictionary and a list of English derivatives from Latin. Searchable.



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Encyclopedia Mythica

<http://www.pantheon.org/mythica.html>

"An online encyclopedia on mythology, folklore, and legends." Entries cover "gods and goddesses, heroes, legendary creatures and beings from all over the world" and many include illustrations, pronunciation keys, and genealogical information. Features annotated links to related resources.

Fairies & Ghosts Special Issues

<http://www.indigogroup.co.uk/edge/ate10con.htm>

This collection of articles focuses on fairies, ghosts, and other mythical creatures. It includes definitions of fairies, literary references to fairies, and a discussion of medieval fairies, interpretations of ghosts and haunted houses, and related articles. From *At the Edge*, a now-defunct magazine "exploring new interpretations of past and place in archaeology, folklore and mythology."

Folklore and Mythology: Electronic Texts

<http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/folktexts.html>

An extensive collection of tales from around the world, many edited or translated by D. L. Ashliman, a professor of Germanic Languages and Literature. The alphabetical listing is by author, country of origin, and categories.

Guardian's Egypt

<http://www.guardians.net/egypt/>

Contains links to other websites about Egyptian gods, goddesses, and mythology.

Myths and Legends

<http://www.myths.com/pub/myths/myth.html>

Contains annotated links to all types of mythology websites, covering a wide variety of cultures.

MythWeb

<http://www.mythweb.com/>

This "guaranteed kid safe" site is appropriate for students and teachers with an interest in Greek mythology. Appealing and colorful cartoons (some animated) depict the world of Greek gods and heroes. Also included is the "Illustrated Encyclopedia of Greek Mythology," which contains detailed definitions and cross references from the Latin names of the deities, and lesson plans. Searchable.

Databases

Expanded Academic ASAP

Used for more in depth research, there are digitized articles from academic journals and magazines on most if not all types of mythology.

Gale Virtual Reference Library



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Provides access to material digitized from reference books.

General Reference Center Gold

Provides access to journal, magazine, reference, and multimedia articles that have been digitized from print resources. Can be used for more in depth research of the mythology topic.

Grolier Online

Provides access to material digitized from reference books.

INFOTRAC OneFile

Provides access to journal, magazine, reference, and multimedia articles that have been digitized from print resources. Can be used for more in depth research of the mythology topic.

Books

Reference

A Dictionary of English Folklore

REF 398.2 SIM

Containing 1,250 entries, from dragons to Mother Goose, May Day to Michaelmas, and this reference work is an absorbing and entertaining guide to English folklore.

Available at Central, BVL, STC

The Dictionary of Imaginary Places

REF 809.93 MAN

From Atlantis to Tolkien's Middle-Earth, this Baedeker of the imagination takes readers on a tour of more than 1,200 realms invented by storytellers from Homer's day to our own.

Available at Central, STC, BVL, PC

Encyclopedia of things that never were: creatures, places, and people

REF 398 PAG

A comprehensive compilation references myths and fantasies from around the world and spanning human history

Available at Central

Folklore: an encyclopedia of beliefs, customs, tales, music, and art

REF 398 FOL

Designed for students, scholars, and general readers, this work focuses on folklore forms and methods from a cross-cultural, theoretical perspective.

Available at Central

Funk & Wagnalls standard dictionary of folklore, mythology, and legend

REF 398.03 FUN

A dictionary of folklore, mythology, and legend.



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Available at Central

Legends of the earth, sea, and sky: an encyclopedia of nature myths

REF 291.2 AND

A tertiary reference assembling information on ancient myths concerning the physical world. Entries include natural forces, deities, terms relating to the myths, and broad geographical areas. Available at Central, BVL, PC

The Oxford companion to fairy tales: the Western fairy-tale tradition from Perrault to Pratchett

REF 398.21 OXF

~ Researchers from scholars to the general public will find this reference source an excellent starting place to find definitions, summaries, authors, artists, and regional and historical overviews of fairy tales, past and present.

Available at Central, STC, BVL, PC

A Treasury of Jewish folklore: stories, traditions, legends, humor, wisdom, and folk songs of the Jewish people

REF 398.2 AUS

This is a classic collection of more than 800 traditions, legends, parables, and songs, with a glossary of Yiddish and Hebrew words.

Available at Central and BVL

UFOs and popular culture: an encyclopedia of contemporary myth

REF 001.942 LEW

From religious beliefs and legends to movies and TV shows, from advertising and celebrities to Internet sites and photo ops, this illustrated A-Z encyclopedia makes it easy to locate each topic, and the opportunities for further research assure its timeliness.

Available at Central

The World of Myth

REF 291.1 LEE

The World of Myth provides a sweeping anthology of myths, ranging from ancient Egypt and Greece to the Polynesian islands and modern science.

Available at Central

Nonfiction

Celtic myths and legends

398.2089 ELL

Celtic myths and legends are generally long and involved. To these complex stories, Ellis-Celtic scholar, popular historian, and, as Peter Tremayne, author of a mystery series set in seventh-century Ireland-brings his considerable skills as a teller of tales.

Available at BVL



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The complete gods and goddesses of ancient Egypt
299.3 WIL

With hundreds of illustrations and specially commissioned drawings, this is a comprehensive and authoritative guide to the deities that lay at the heart of Egyptian religion and society.
Available at Central

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Elves and Fairies
398.21 KNI

An introduction to the magical power of nature, the homes and haunts of elves and fairies, and their ways; with fairy rituals and ways to meet them.
Available Central, STC, BVL, PC

Dictionary of gods and goddesses
202 JOR

For well known deities of past times, he includes such information as origin, known period of worship, centers of cult, art references, and literary sources.
Available at Central, BVL, WO, KV, NC, STC

Dictionary of Hindu lore and legend
294.513 DAL

As well as ritual and religious personalities, concepts, works, and other topics, Dallapiccola describes the religious or cultural significance of ordinary objects and animals across the subcontinent.
Available at BVL, STC, PC

Don't Know Much about Mythology: Everything You Need to Know about the Greatest Stories in Human History but Never Learned
201 DAV

Where do we come from? Why do stars shine and the seasons change? What is evil? Since the beginning of time, people have answered such questions by crafting imaginative stories that have served as religion, science, philosophy, and popular literature.
Available Central, STC, BVL, PC, WO, KV

Indian mythology: tales, symbols, and rituals from the heart of the Subcontinent
294.5 PAT

Fifty artistic renderings of important mythological figures illustrate the complex polytheistic Hindu tradition and show how central these figures are to the Hindu conception of the world.
Available at Central

100 Characters from Classical Mythology: Discover the Fascinating Stories of the Greek Roman Deities
704.947 DAY

Greek and Roman gods and goddesses.
Available at Central, STC, BVL, PC



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The Oxford Companion to World Mythology
201 LEE

This single volume begins with a list of the broad cultural headings e.g., African, Chinese, Greek with references to related subjects.

Available Central, STC, BVL, PC, WO, KV

The Oxford dictionary of classical myth and religion
292.1 OXF

This dictionary offers a comprehensive survey of ancient Greek and Roman myths and religious life, including coverage of Judaism and Christianity in the Greco-Roman world. It encompasses a fascinating range of topics, from festivals and divination, to magic and 'mystery cults', and is indispensable for students, teachers, and anyone interested in ancient times.

Available at Central, BVL, KV, STC, PC

The Oxford essential guide to Egyptian mythology
299.31 OXF

With over 90 in-depth articles, drawings, map, index, and further reading.

Available at BVL

Myth and history in ancient Greece: the symbolic creation of a colony
292.1 CAL

He argues that the Greeks viewed their abundance of narratives not as a single mythology but as "archaeology." They speculated symbolically on key historical events so that a community of believing citizens could access them efficiently, through ritual means.

Available at Central and STC

Mythology of the Aztecs and Maya: myths and legends of ancient Mexico and Northern Central America

299.78452 JON

~ A fascinating exploration of the mythologies of the Aztecs and the Mayas.

Available at Central and BVL

World mythology: the illustrated guide
201.3 WOR

World Mythology offers readers an authoritative and wide-ranging guide to these enduring mythological traditions, combining the pure narrative of the myths themselves with the background necessary for more complete understanding.

Available at KV

World of myths
291.1 WOR

This reference combines five books from the Legendary Past Series: Egyptian Myths by George Hart, Greek Myths by Lucilla Burn, Roman Myths by Jane F. Gardner, Celtic Myths by Miranda Jane Green, and Norse Myths by R.I. Page.

Available at Central and PC