

LEAF Forest Myths and Stories

**Ages: 3-18****Time: 2-4 hours**

Purpose: To learn about myths and stories relating to forests and use this information to write your own stories.

Curricular links

EXA 0-4-01a-05a

LIT 0-4-01a, 0-01b, 0-01c, 0-4-02a, 0-4-04a, 0-4-07a, 0-4-09a, 0-09b, 0-4-11a, 0-4-13a, 0-4-16a-17a, 0-4-19a-24a, 0-4-26-28a

ENG 0-4-03a, 0-4-12a

Introduction

Myths are traditional stories, which are often set in ancient times and involve supernatural beings, including gods, heroes and creatures. Myths were often created so that people could understand the world around them, particularly the natural world that seemed powerful and strange. There are many fantastic myths and stories from around the world that involve forests, trees and the animals that live there.

The activity can be adapted for different levels by varying the myths and stories chosen for reading and the complexity of discussion questions.

Activity

Select one or more myths or stories with forests or trees as part of the story to read as a class.

Here are some ideas to help you get started:

- Books of myths / stories:
 - Dancing with Trees: Eco-Tales from the British Isles by Allison Galbraith and Alette J. Willis
 - Forest Folk Tales for Children by Tom Phillips
 - Woodland Folk Tales of Britain and Ireland by Lista Schneidau
- Ask members of your local community if they know of any myths or stories about your local trees or forests.

Once you have read the story, have a discussion about the story, including questions such as:

- What happened in the story?
- How were trees / forests involved in the story?
- What do you think we can learn from the story?





Your charity for Scotland's environment

Use what you have learned as inspiration and write and / or draw your own myth or story about trees, forests or the animals that live in them.

Share your stories in class and with the rest of your school.

