



ELA Virtual Learning

**8th Grade/ELA**

**Word Meaning/Inference**

**May 20, 2020**



Lesson: May 20, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target:**

I can determine the meaning of words and phrases and compare similar myths (stories).

# WARM UP

Many of the words and phrases we use today come from ancient Greek, Roman, and Norse mythology. Write down the words below and then use the internet to find the origin of each word. Also, write whether the word comes from Greek, Roman, or Norse mythology.

1. Thursday
2. Echo
3. Narcissism
4. Hypnosis
5. Cereal
6. Friday
7. Amazon
8. Mentor
9. Volcano
10. Nike



# Answers: WARM UP

1. Thursday - named after the Norse god Thor. Thor's day=Thursday
2. Echo - comes from a Greek nymph who curse Hera into repeating what others say
3. Narcissism - comes from a Greek man named Narcissus who fell in love with his own reflection
4. Hypnosis - Hypnos was a Greek god who lived in a dark cave and was the personification of sleep
5. Cereal - comes from Ceres who was the Roman goddess of agriculture and grain
6. Friday - named after the Norse goddess Frigg
7. Amazon - named after a tribe of warrior women in Greek mythology
8. Mentor - Greek legend Odysseus used a man named "Mentor" to teach his son
9. Volcano - named after Vulcan, the Roman god of fire
10. Nike - Nike is the Greek goddess of victory

# LEARN

There are many similarities between Greek, Roman, and Norse mythologies. The ancient Greeks and Romans lived near each other and interacted often. That led to the Greeks and Romans “stealing” gods and goddesses from each other and using them in their own religion. Many of the Greek and Roman gods and goddesses are very similar, just with different names.



# LEARN

Norse mythology wasn't written down until almost two thousand years after Greek mythology was written. This is one reason for some of the similarities. Also, by the time Norse mythology was written down, Christianity was very popular and also influenced how Norse myths were written.

Not only do the stories (myths) of these ancient cultures have many similarities, they also have similarities to stories found in the Bible.

# Independent Practice

Here is one example of how a story from Greek mythology compares to a story from the Bible. Read each story and think about how they are the same and how they are different.

On a piece of paper, write a paragraph comparing the two stories. How are the stories similar? How are they different? Do they have the same theme/message or are they different? Use examples from the stories to support your ideas. Remember, your paragraph needs to be 5-7 sentences and needs to contain proper spelling, capitalization, punctuation and grammar.

Story One: [The Story of Pandora's Box](#)

Story Two: ["Eve and the Serpent"](#)

# Independent Practice - Sample Paragraph

“Pandora’s Box” and “Eve and the Serpent” have a similar message that centers on the people doing something they weren’t supposed to. Pandora is told by Zeus not to open the box he had given her as a wedding present. Similarly, Eve is told by God not to eat from a certain tree in the Garden of Eden. Curiosity gets the best of Pandora and Eve and they both do the thing they were told not to do. The results are catastrophic for all of mankind. Pandora releases all of life’s miseries into the world, and Eve’s actions curse man to have to work hard to get food from the ground and God takes away man’s immortality. Even though there are plenty of similarities, the stories do have some differences. Eve may not have disobeyed God if it hadn’t been for the serpent who tempted her to eat from the forbidden tree. However, Pandora’s only temptation was her own curiosity. No one was pressuring her to open the box from Zeus. Also, Zeus was hoping to trick Pandora and sent the box to her as a form of punishment, but God was not trying to trick Eve and didn’t want them to eat from the tree. There are some differences between the two stories, but in the end, they both have a similar theme that warns the reader to do as they are told and not let curiosity get the best of them.



# Additional Resources

Did you know: The first Olympics were held in ancient Greece. Do any of these Olympic events look similar to the ones we have today? [Original Olympics](#)



Here's more on how the Olympics got started and why they were canceled for more than a thousand years. [The Origin of the Ancient Olympics](#)