

Comparing Myths and Legends



The Rabbit in the Moon is a mythological story that explains why some cultures believe you can see a rabbit imprint on the moon when you look at the night sky.

The terms myths and legends tend to get used interchangeably although they have slightly different meanings.

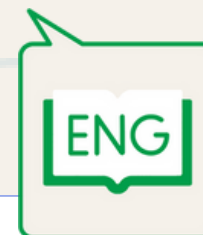
Myths can be defined as a traditional story, often linked to early history and trying to explain a natural or social phenomenon. They often have supernatural characters or events. Legends are traditional stories usually regarded as having some historical truth to them but cannot be verified e.g. King Arther and the Knights of the Round Table.

This activity card looks at the global examples of this myth as well as an Aztec (modern day Mexico) and Chinese version of it.

Global Links

The Rabbit in the Moon myth can be found across different countries and cultures, particularly Asia, showing us how stories can travel geographically over time impacting multiple cultures. Similar stories, myths and legends can often show up in cultural festivals across a similar geographic region.

Sometimes however, we see similar stories, myths and legends over longer periods of time, which feels more unusual, such as the Aztec (modern day Mexico) myth, The Rabbit in the Moon and the Chinese legend, The Jade Rabbit in the Moon.



Vocabulary

story (n)



Ejemplo

rabbit (n)



Ejemplo

moon (n)



Ejemplo

Curriculum Links

English



Art and crafts

Resource videos

[The Legend of the Moon Rabbit](#)



Text

[Aztec: Quetzalcoatl and the Rabbit](#)



[China: The Story of the Jade Rabbit and Moon Goddess](#)



A. Method

- 1 Watch The Legend of the Moon Rabbit.
- 2 Identify (verbally or written) all the different countries or places that have a Rabbit in the Moon story.
- 3 Find the countries and places mentioned on Google Maps.
- 4 Ask the students to watch the Chinese and Aztec versions of this story in the videos.
- 5 Identify similarities and differences between these two versions of the story using a [Venn Diagram](#)



Explore!

Myths and Legends exist in all cultures. Identify the ones students know, check their class or school library for books with myths and legends. Choose a myth or legend that is from their culture or country and, working as a group, in pairs or individually, retell it in a format they choose e.g. role play, cartoon, rewriting it in another genre, recreating it as a news story, etc



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