

WALT identify the features of a Myth.

WILF: - Identify the different features of a myth.

- Select interesting vocabulary features*
- Explain why each feature is useful.*



"SPAG-tacular" Spelling

Click the link to watch the video, then try to think of as many -tious -cious words as you can and spell them. Can you find rules?

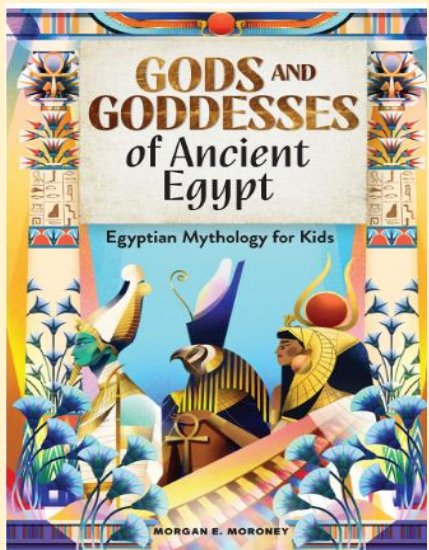


A Myth is a type of story which describes how a natural phenomenon happens, such as: the Earth's creation, the role of the sun, a god or goddess's purpose and so forth.

There are many Ancient Egyptian myths, which tell the story the of Gods and Goddesses that we explored last term. This term we will be writing one of our own, based on the Nile gods.

Today we are going to box up a Myth to find the features.

Features of a Myth	Included?
Introduces characters and settings with description.	
Past tense, without a specific time frame.	
Third person narration.	
Similes to build a picture in the reader's mind.	
Descriptive vocabulary (adjectives/adverbs/expanded noun phrases...)	
Incredible/ subhuman events (stronger than human character actions/powers).	
Provides an explanation for something natural - for example, how the Nile/Earth/Weather was created.	
A hero and an antihero (an antihero is a character who causes issues for the hero).	
An interesting fantasised creature (for example, a three headed alligator).	



Extracts from Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt by Morgan E Moroney, Rockridge Press, 2020.

Introducing settings and characters.

Powerful verbs

Adjectives

Past, no specific date.

Before creation, there was nothing but watery chaos. There existed only the potential for order, the potential for light and dark, and the potential for life. Then something moved, and creation began.

From this chaos, which was called **Nun**, a dark mound rose up. From the center of this mound emerged the creator god, **Atum**, the self-creating one. A **lotus** flower came out of the Nun, holding the sun inside. Together, the sun and Atum created the world. Atum pushed the round, shining orb of the morning sun, and out came Ra, the sun god, who dawned blinding and brilliant.

Third person

With this first sunrise, the earth began. Ra created everything on the earth and in the sky: light, darkness, moisture, and ground. Ra brought forth the river, the desert, the air, and the animals out of the Nun. Tears fell down Ra's face, forming the bees that made sweet honey. Ra shaped his children, Shu and Tefnut, from his bodily fluids. In turn, Shu and Tefnut produced their own children: Geb and Nut. Ra ruled all he created, gods and mankind.

Explaining a natural phenomenon

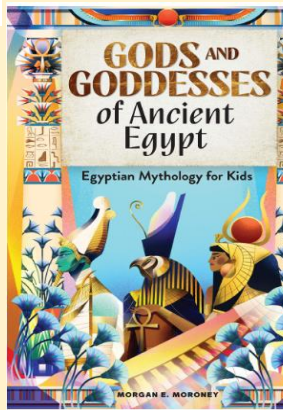
Describes a fantastical creature/hero

Ra rose every morning in the east and began his journey west across the sky on his solar boat. As dusk fell, Ra would sink into the western mountains and continue his travels through the nightly realm below the earth called the **Duat**. There he would face trials and dangers.

Ra had the head of a falcon and the body of a man. A great round **sun disk** sat upon his head. Ra was always the sun, but he would sometimes merge with other gods to create new and powerful forms. These forms often represented the various phases of the sun and its movements. As the infant morning sun, Ra connected with **Khepri**, the beetle form. As the falcon god

GODS AND GODDESSES OF ANCIENT EGYPT

Extracts from *Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt* by Morgan E Moroney, Rockridge Press, 2020.



Ra-Horakhty, Ra rose up victoriously in the eastern sky.

And as the dying sun in the evening, Ra was **Ra-Atum**,
Simile
and took the form of an old man.

As Ra sank into the western hills, he traveled below the horizon and then entered the underworld. Every night he would change ships from his day boat to his night boat. He rode his night boat with a group of loyal gods. Together, these gods traveled through the caverns of the Duat, facing trials and cavern demons who punished the wicked and threatened the good.

Antiheros/ obstacles

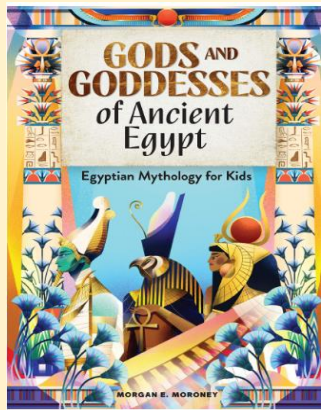
The Duat was made up of the twelve hours of the night. Each nighttime hour related to an underworld

night. Each nighttime hour related to an underworld goddess who gave Ra new strengths and powers. In turn, Ra gave the goddesses the ability to control the living. At hour six, the middle hour, Ra would meet with the ruler of the underworld, the god Osiris. This meeting made Ra extremely powerful and mighty. More importantly, it allowed Osiris and all the dead people in the underworld to live again.

In hour seven, this new and improved Ra entered the kingdom of his enemy, the huge and powerful snake god **Apophis**. When the two finally met face-to-face, they

Subhuman events

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Antihero (villain) battle

fought a great battle. Apophis was chaos itself, and Ra's victory against his opponent every night meant his boat could continue back toward the horizon to rise again.

As the sun, Ra had to make this voyage every day and night. If the sun did not rise, move along its daily path through the sky, set, and rise again the next morning, the earth would cease to exist. All life depended on Ra surviving his nightly quest in the underworld.

On earth, the pharaoh was responsible for aiding Ra during his difficult nightly journey. In the **Karnak temple** Pharaoh enacted rituals to guarantee Ra would triumph.

Dramatic consequences if the quest is failed

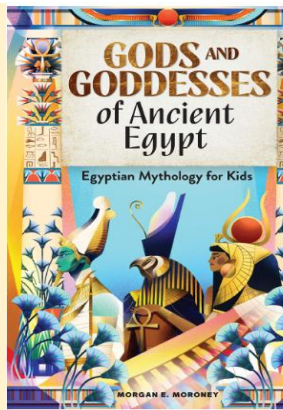
Daily rituals and monthly festivals were celebrated, and the sun was praised as it rose each morning.

At the beginning of the New Kingdom (**circa** 1550 BCE) a new god rose in popularity in Egypt: **Amun**. Like the wind and air, the god Amun was everywhere. Amun's name meant "the hidden one," unseen yet ever present. He was universal. Ra was supreme, but he and Amun merged to form the powerful **Amun-Ra**, a solar deity ruling over all of the earth and sky.

More than human hero

Amun-Ra usually took the form of a man with a long beard and two large feathers atop his head. These

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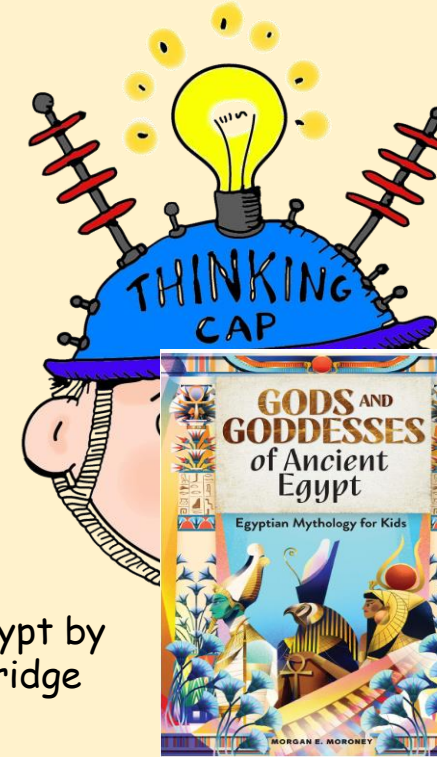


feathers represent Amun-Ra's invisible form—wind can be “seen” when it ruffles and moves through feathers.

Pharaohs led armies outside of Egypt to bring back riches and gold in the name of Amun-Ra. Amun-Ra was pleased, and rewarded the king and the people of Egypt with a good flood, abundant crops, and victorious battles.

GODS AND GODDESSES OF ANCIENT EGYPT

Resolution: a happy ending



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Today I would like you to box up another Myth from Ancient Egypt: The Story of Isis and Osiris (*Week 1. English. Myth Example'*). Use the features and identify as many as possible. Then, have a look at any interesting vocabulary and see if you can improve it. 😊

Challenge: why is each feature important?



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