Myths and Heroes WORKSHEET

Whenever indicated, use the links to access specific Web pages in order to complete the worksheet + Add personal commentary and/or illustrations when necessary.

Myths

TWO DEFINITIONS: http://urbanlegends.about.com/cs/folklore/f/mythology2.htm
1. A religious story — no matter from which culture — and will therefore involve the existence and activities of a supernatural being, such as a god, a demigod, a goddess, or several such entities:
It will seek to explain at least some aspect of the origin or manner of things if not of the very universe itself.
Connects up in some significant way with other similar stories within a culture.
It came into existence through oral tradition.
It is believed to be essentially true by those in the society for whom it is one part of a cultural.

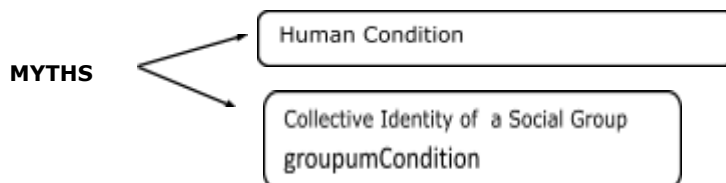**Illustration: PROMETHEUS: http://urbanlegends.about.com/cs/folklore/f/mythology2.htm**
Prometheus is famous for a couple of seemingly unrelated stories: the gift of fire to mankind and being chained to a rock where every day an eagle came to eat his live.

2. The word "myth" has also — ever since the time of Herodotus, a Greek writer and historian in the 4th century B.C.E. — come to be used to designate a story or the understanding of some matter as fictional and even downright false.

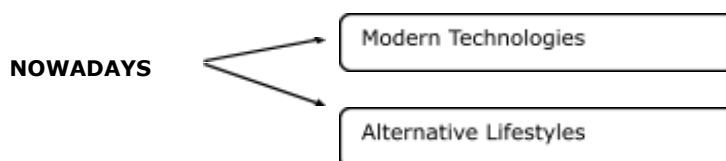**Illustration: URBAN LEGENDS: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban_legend**
An urban legend, urban myth, urban tale, or contemporary legend, is a form of modern folklore consisting of stories that may or may not have been believed by their tellers to be true.
As with all folklore and mythology, the designation suggests nothing about the story's veracity, but merely that it is in circulation, exhibits variation over time, and carries some significance that motivates the community in preserving and propagating it.

MYTHS
- Human Condition
- Collective Identity of a Social Group
groupumCondition

Example: AFRICAN MYTHS: http://www.mythencyclopedia.com/A-Am/African-Mythology.html

Like myths from other parts of the world, those of the African peoples reflect beliefs and values. But while the mythologies of many cultures are carefully preserved relics of ancient times, African myths and legends are still a meaningful part of everyday life. Some African myths deal with universal themes, such as the origin of the world and the fate of the individual after death. Yet many spring from the continent's own settings, conditions, and history.

NOWADAYS
- Modern Technologies
- Alternative Lifestyles

Illustrations:
http://www.mythencyclopedia.com/Mi-Ni/Modern-Mythology.html#ixzz2gP8Z1tB6

People around the world continue to create new myths and to embroider or rework existing ones. Modern

technardogies such as publishing, movies, telecommunications, and the Internet allow folktales, rumors, and newly minted myths to travel faster and reach more people than ever before.

http://www.unboundmedicine.com/medline/citation/7872031/[The_myth_of_the_good_savage]_

The conquest of the New World gave way to the myth of the Good Savage. The myth of the Good Savage assumes people to be naturally good, but civilization has led them into the realm of violence, hatred, and cruelty. That's why

Heroes/Heroines

TWO DEFINITIONS:

1. GREEK MYTHOLOGY: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hero
A hero (heroine for a female) (Ancient Greek: ἥρως, hḗrōs), in Greek mythology and folklore, was originally a demigod, their cult being one of the most distinctive features of ancient Greek religion.[ ] A demigod is the son or daughter from one immortal and one mortal parent, an example would be Heracles, son of the mortal queen Alcmene and the god Zeus. Later, *hero* (male) and *heroine* (female) came to refer to characters who, in the face of danger and adversity or from a position of weakness, display courage and the will for self sacrifice—that is, heroism—for some greater good of all humanity. This definition originally referred to martial courage or excellence but extended to more general moral excellence.

2. LATER: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hero
The word "hero" or "heroine" is sometimes used simply to describe the protagonist of a story, or the love interest, a usage which can conflict with the superhuman expectations of heroism. William Makepeace Thackeray gave *Vanity Fair* the subtitle *A Novel without a Hero*[ ] The larger-than-life hero is a more common feature of fantasy (particularly sword and sorcery and epic fantasy) than more realist works.

VARIOUS TYPES

1. BIBLICAL FIGURES/MYTHOLOGICAL HEROES:
---> http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_culture_heroes
Yu the Great (Chinese: 大禹; pinyin: *Dà Yǔ*, c. 2200 - 2100 BC),[1] was a legendary ruler in ancient China famed for his introduction of flood control, inaugurating dynastic rule in China by founding the Xia Dynasty, and for his upright moral character.[2][3]
Few, if any, records exist from the period of Chinese history when Yu reigned. Because of this, the vast majority of information about his life and reign comes from collected pieces of oral tradition and stories that were passed down in various areas of China, many of which were collected in Sima Qian's famous Records of the Grand Historian. Yu and other "sage-kings" of Ancient China were lauded by Confucius and other Chinese teachers, who praised their virtues and morals.[4]
Yu is one of the few Chinese rulers posthumously honored with the epithet "the Great".

--->http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/7-famous-heroes-in-the-bible/
In Abrahamic religions, **Noah** (/ˈnoʊ.ə/[1]) or **Noé** or **Noach**, (Hebrew: נֹחַ, נוֹחַ, Modern *Noaẖ* Tiberian *Nōăḥ*; Arabic: نُوح *Nūḥ*; Ancient Greek: Νῶε) was the tenth and last of the antediluvian Patriarchs. The story of Noah and the Ark is told in the Genesis flood narrative, and also told in Sura 71 of the Quran. The Biblical account is followed by the story of the Curse of Ham. Outside Genesis his name is mentioned in 1 Chronicles, Isaiah, Ezekiel, the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, Hebrews and the 1st and 2nd Epistles of Peter. He was the subject of much elaboration in later Abrahamic traditions, including the Qur'an.

2. LITERARY /FICTIONAL CHARACTERS:

---> In novels: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hero
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---> In modern movies: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hero
   In modern movies, the hero is often simply an ordinary person in extraordinary circumstances, who, despite the odds being stacked against him or her, typically prevails in the end. In some movies (especially action movies), a hero may exhibit characteristics such as superhuman strength and endurance to the point of the hero being nearly invincible. Often a hero in these situations has a foil, the villain, typically a charismatic evildoer who represents, leads, or embodies the struggle the hero is up against.

3. SUPER-HEROES: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hero
   Post-modern fictional works have fomented the increased popularity of the antihero, who does not follow common conceptions of heroism. Examples of modern heroes are Harry Potter, Katniss Everdeen, Percy Jackson, Bilbo Baggins, Luke Skywalker, and Superman.

4. HISTORICAL/NATIONAL HEROES WITH POLITICAL/SOCIAL/CULTURAL INFLUENCE:
http://www.adherents.com/people/100_heroes.html

---> Abraham Lincoln/George Washington/Franklin Delano Roosevelt/John F. Kennedy

Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States, serving from March 1861 until his assassination in April 1865. Lincoln led the United States through its greatest constitutional, military, and moral crisis—the American Civil War—preserving the Union, abolishing slavery, strengthening the national government and modernizing the economy.
George Washington was the first President of the United States (1789–1797), the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War, and one of the Founding Fathers of the United States.
Franklin Delano Roosevelt , 32nd President of the United States (1933–1945), served for 12 years and four terms until his death in 1945, the only president ever to do so, and a central figure in world events during the mid-20th century, leading the United States during a time of worldwide economic depression and total war.
John Fitzgerald Kennedy (May 29, 1917 – November 22, 1963), commonly known as "**Jack**" or by his initials **JFK**, was the 35th President of the United States, serving from January 1961 until he was assassinated in November 1963.

---> Martin Luther King, Jr./Rosa Parks
Martin Luther King, Jr. was an American clergyman, activist, humanitarian, and leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement. He is best known for his role in the advancement of civil rights using nonviolent civil disobedience. King has become a national icon in the history of American progressivism.
Rosa Louise McCauley Parks was an African-American civil rights activist, whom the U.S. Congress called "the first lady of civil rights" and "the mother of the freedom movement".Her birthday, February 4, and the day she was arrested, December 1, have both become Rosa Parks Day, commemorated in the U.S. states of California and Ohio.

---> Napoleon Bonaparte/General De Gaulle/Winston Churchill
Napoleon Bonaparte was a French military and political leader who rose to prominence during the latter stages of the French Revolution and its associated wars in Europe.
Charles André Joseph Marie de Gaulle was a French general and statesman who led the Free French Forces during World War II. He later founded the French Fifth Republic in 1958 and served as its first president from 1959 to 1969.
Sir Winston Leonard Spencer-Churchill, was a British politician who was Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945 (that is, for most of the Second World War) and again from 1951 to 1955. Widely regarded as one of the greatest wartime leaders of the 20th century, Churchill was also an officer in the British Army, a historian, a writer, and an artist.

---> Mahatma Gandhi was the preeminent leader of Indian nationalism in British-ruled India. Employing nonviolent civil disobedience, Gandhi led India to independence and inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world. India.

---> Nelson Mandela is a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary and politician who served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. He was the first black South African to hold the office, and the first elected in a fully representative, multiracial election. His government focused on dismantling the legacy of apartheid through

tackling institutionalised racism, poverty and inequality, and fostering racial reconciliation.

5. REAL-LIFE HEROES WITH PERSONAL SKILLS IN A PARTICULAR FIELD:

---> **Steve Jobs: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Jobs**   (**+ Bill Gates** ?)
Steven Paul "Steve" Jobs was an American entrepreneur, marketer,and inventor, who was the co-founder (along with Steve Wozniak and Ronald Wayne), chairman, and CEO of Apple Inc. Through Apple, he is widely recognized as a charismatic pioneer of the personal computer revolution and for his influential career in the computer and consumer electronics fields, transforming "one industry after another, from computers and smartphones to music and movies".

---> **Felix Baumgartner**
Felix Baumgartner is an Austrian skydiver, daredevil and BASE jumper. He set the world record for skydiving an estimated 39 kilometres (24 mi), reaching an estimated speed of 1357.64 km/h (843.6 mph), or Mach 1.25, on 14 October 2012, and became the first person to break the sound barrier without vehicular power on his descent.

---> **Sportsmen/women / Artists/ Scientists**
 Leonardo Da Vinci (April 15, 1452 – May 2, 1519)) was an Italian Renaissance polymath: painter, sculptor, architect, musician, mathematician, engineer, inventor, anatomist, geologist, cartographer, botanist, and writer. Leonardo was, and is, renowned primarily as a painter. Among his works, the *Mona Lisa* is the most famous and most parodied portrait Leonardo's drawing of the *Vitruvian Man* is also regarded as a cultural icon. He worked most of his life in Rome, Bologna, Venice and Florencia.

---> **The Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, M.C., commonly known as Mother Teresa (26 August 1910 – 5 September 1997), was an Albanian-born, Indian Roman Catholic Religious Sister.Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic religious congregation, which in 2012 consisted of over 4,500 sisters and is active in 133 countries. They run hospices and homes for people with HIV/AIDS, leprosy and tuberculosis; soup kitchens; children's and family counseling programmes; orphanages; and schools. Members of the order must adhere to the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, and the fourth vow, to give "Wholehearted and Free service to the poorest of the poor".**

Mother Teresa was the recipient of numerous honours including the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize. In late 2003, she was beatified, the third step toward possible sainthood, giving her the title "Blessed Teresa of Calcutta". A second miracle credited to her intercession is required before she can be recognised as a saint by the Catholic Church.

Admired and respected by many, she has also been accused of failing to provide medical care or painkillers, misusing charitable money, and maintaining positive relationships with dictators.

6. EVERYDAY LIFE HEROES / EVERYMAN HEROES:

---> **Firefighters/Police Officers/Rescuers/Doctors Without Borders/...**

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7. CONTEMPORARY VIRTUAL HEROES:

---> **You Tube**

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---> SocNets

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8. ANTI-HEROES:

---> In post-modern fictional works: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_fictional_antiheroes

This list is for characters in fictional works who exemplify the qualities of an anti-hero, or a protagonist whose characteristics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **imperfections that separate them from typically "heroic" characters (selfishness, ignorance, bigotry, etc.);**
- **lack of positive qualities such as "courage, physical prowess, and fortitude," and "generally feel helpless in a world over which they have no control";**
- **qualities normally belonging to villains (amorality, greed, violent tendencies, etc.) that may be tempered with more human, identifiable traits (confusion, self-hatred, etc.) In fact, antiheroes often blur the lines between classic antagonists and protagonists;**
- **possibly noble but ambiguous motives pursued by the belief that "the ends justify the means.";**

---> In real life:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_Assange
 Julian Paul Assange (born 3 July 1971) is an Australian editor, activist, publisher and journalist. He is known as the editor-in-chief and founder of WikiLeaks, which publishes submissions of secret information, news leaks. and classified media from anonymous news sources and whistleblowers.

Assange was a hacker as a teenager, then a computer programmer before becoming known for his work with WikiLeaks, initially started in 2006 and making public appearances around the world speaking about freedom of the press, censorship, and investigative journalism.